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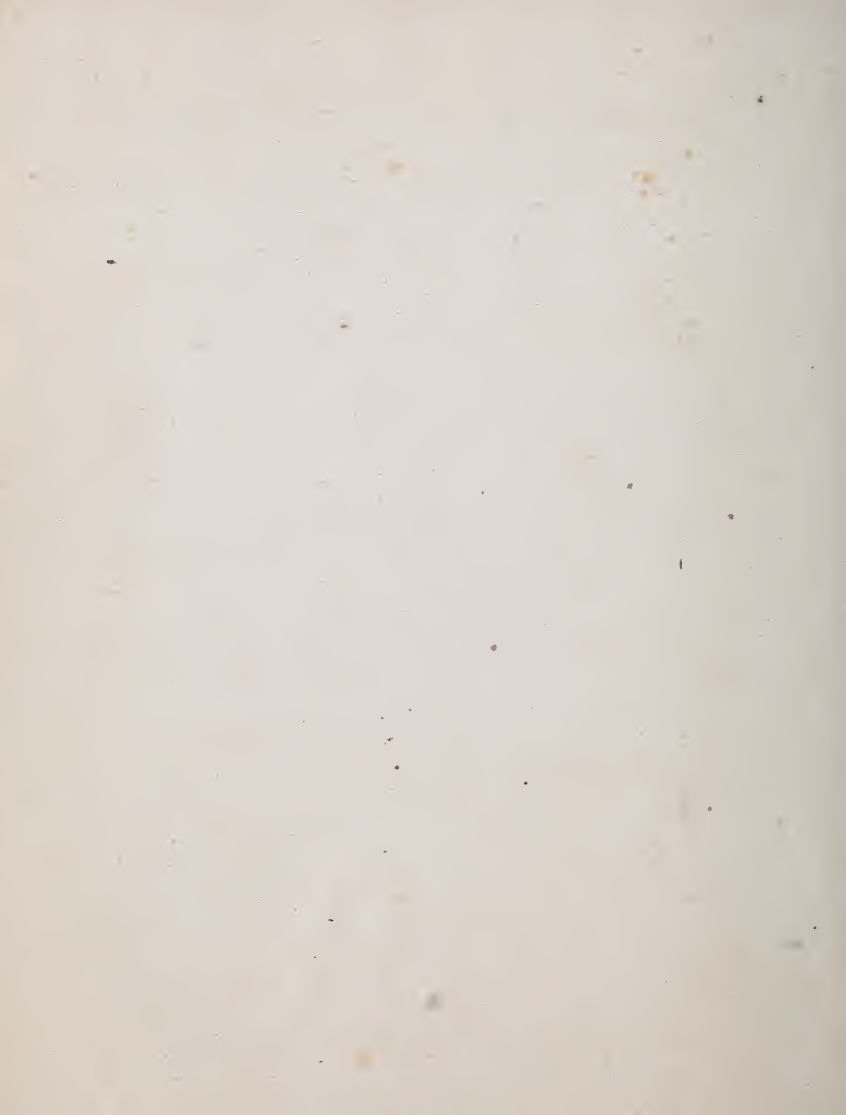
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FIRST STEPS IN FRENCH.

BEING

An Introduction to the French Language.

BY

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P. F. DE GOURNAY.



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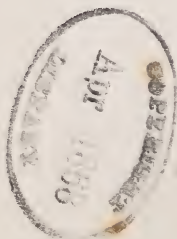
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P R E F A C E.

WHY THIS LITTLE BOOK WAS WRITTEN.

So many “Methods” and “Systems” of learning the French language have been published, and are used satisfactorily in our best educational institutions, that it seems superfluous to write anything more on the subject. During my experience as a teacher of French, however, a fact has forced itself upon my mind ; it is that whilst the pupils who had been using these methods had become ready translators, their enunciation had remained, as a general case, very defective. Trying to remedy this, I have come to the following conclusions :

Whilst the object of those various systems is to make the student’s progress rapid, and his task interesting, by storing his mind with ready-made sentences, so arranged as to enable him, gradually, to express his thoughts, and to become familiar

with the rules of the language, sufficient attention is not given to the all important part of pronunciation. He *reads* words which he is often at loss how to *speak*, and, sometimes, unable to recognize when he *hears* them spoken.

VALUE, PINNEY, and some others, precede their course of lessons with a synopsis of the rules of pronunciation; but, strange to say, these rules, by which a considerable number of new sounds must be learned, are given together, whilst the greatest care has been taken to arrange the idiomatic and grammatical part of the book in gradual lessons. Let us take the first lessons in Ollendorff, consisting in a few easy sentences, and we find some of the most difficult sounds in the French language brought together, and to be exercised upon, without any other clue to their pronunciation than the enumeration of over fifty sounds, or rules for producing sounds, which the student may or may not have memorized. The application is left to the teacher. Would it not be more in keeping with the "system" itself, to teach the sounds *gradually*?

The child learns to speak his mother tongue before he learns to read. He learns the sounds by

which objects are designated, and, gradually, the sounds by which to express thoughts connecting these objects. It is the oral system in all its simplicity. Later, when he takes to book study, it is to learn how to *correct his speech*, not how to speak. And to do this, he must learn first his letters, the signs by which the sounds are *spelled*.

The Anglo-Saxon living among French people, and hearing no other language than the French spoken, would follow the same process as the child ; but, when he merely devotes a few hours daily to the study of a language other than his own, he must be subjected simultaneously to

The training of the tongue ; that is, SPEAKING, or how to pronounce the sounds ;

The training of the ears ; otherwise HEARING, or how to recognize the sounds when heard ;

And, the training of the eyes, *the active agents of memory* ; that is, READING, or how to recognize the signs by which the new sounds are represented.

This threefold task I have attempted to prepare in short, progressive lessons, exercising the pupil only on a small number of sounds and combina-

tions of letters at one time. A few grammatical rules are introduced, to enable him to form simple sentences. In this latter part, the teacher will use his own discretion in exercising the pupil.

My little book, then, is not introduced as a new method by which to learn the French language, but, as its title claims, as an introductory chapter which may precede any of the good systems in use, and which, upon fair trial, will be found to facilitate the student's progress.

In this country, the study of modern languages is conducted pretty much like that of the classics, except that less attention is given to the former; but both result in mere book learning—sufficient to read understandingly a foreign book, but not enough to converse fluently. The want of practice has much to do with this, and students cannot be too strongly urged to seek every opportunity to hear French spoken and to speak it.

I mark a striking contrast between the enunciation of English people and that of Americans, when speaking French. The former drawl their words, exaggerating the vowel sounds; the latter, with characteristic go-ahead habit, shorten these

sounds and frequently run, as it were, syllable into syllable. Thus, an Englishman will pronounce the idiomatic sentence "*Comment vous portez-vous ?*" "Comang, voo por-tay voo?" dwelling on each syllable as if it were a distinct word; whilst the American will say "Come vo porte vo," ignoring two of the syllables and shortening the sound of *ou* into that of brief *o*. The former's defect can be corrected much more easily than the latter's, and I would recommend to students to open the mouth wider than when speaking English, and give the full sound of the vowels.

The seeming rapidity of enunciation of French people arises from the suppression of the faint *e* sound; the uniform accentuation of the vowels *a*, *i*, *o*, *u*; the fact that fewer final consonants are articulated in French, and the suppression of the vibrating sound of *m* and *n* in nasal sounds. If the student will remember these few short rules, he will find it much less difficult to acquire a clear and correct diction.

FIRST LESSON.



SIMPLE SOUNDS.

Our first step in the study of a language must necessarily be to learn its alphabet, the signs by which its sounds are expressed.

In all languages, the vowels are the original sounds, from which the consonants derive theirs, as well as the names by which they are designated. If, then, we know the sounds of the vowels, we can easily learn the names of the consonants derived from them respectively.

In English the names of all the consonants are formed from three vowel sounds.

A forms h, j, k, r.

E forms b, c, d, f, g, l, m, n, p, s, t, v, x, z.

U forms q and w.

In French, besides these three vowels, i forms two consonants :

A (pronounced like the English a in father,) forms the names of the consonants h (*ash*.) and k (*kah*.)

E (pronounced ay) forms b (*bay*,) c (*say*,) d (*day*,) f, g (*zay*,) l, m, n, p (*pay*,) r (*er*,) s, t (*tay*,) v (*vay*,) z (*zed*,)

NOTE.—f, l, m, n, s, same names as in English, but sounded more open.

I (pronounced ee, as in *bee*,) forms j (*zee*,) and x (*ix*,)

U forms q. This vowel has a peculiar sound, not to be found in English. It is the stumbling-block of Anglo-Saxons. The pupil must learn it from the teacher; it is pronounced by bringing out the lips, as if to whistle or pout, and letting the sound escape with a slight vibration, as it is emitted from the throat.

W does not properly belong to the French alphabet; it is used only in words of foreign origin, and is called *double v*, instead of double u.—Some grammarians say it should be pronounced like v, but it is more generally given its English sound.

It will be seen, from what precedes, that, with the exception of j, r, and x, the French consonants derive their names from the same vowels as the English. These three exceptions being borne in mind, the student can have no trouble in remembering the names of the consonants.

FIRST EXERCISE.

(SPELL THE WORDS.)

Ab eb ib ob ub ac ec ic oc uc yc ad ed id
od af ef if of uf ag eg ig og ug al el il ol ul
yl ma na pa ba ca co cu ra ro ru ri ry no ni
nu pu tu su fu ta ti to tu at et it ot ut va vi
vo vu vy iv ev ov uv xa xi xo xu za zi zo zu
ez ex.

Aba eba iba oba uba aca eca ica ico icu yc
afa efi ofu ufu iga igo egu eco rata sapa mila
nat mat met tor tar ter sat fur for mil nyl pur
mur sur fir par por lar ral raf ref rif.

Bra bre bri bro bru cra cre cri cro cry cru
dra dre dri dro dru gra gre gri gro gru pra pri
pro pru spa spi spo spu psa psi pso psu vra vri
vro vru.

Jab jeb jib job jub jar jer jir jos jut jap jef
jir jak jek kij koj juk jal jel jil jol jul maj mej
mij moj muj naj nej nij noj nuj.

Second Lesson.

S I M P L E S O U N D S .

The vowels a, i, y, and u, unless combined with another vowel to form a "compound vowel sound," or with a consonant, to form a "nasal sound,"

never lose their original sound, which is simply pronounced long or short, by dwelling more or less on it.

The vowel *o* has the same variations of sound in French as found in the English words **ROB**, **ROBE**, **LORD**. The first of these sounds is given when this vowel is followed by a mute syllable or a sounding final consonant. Ex: *roc, broc, folle, symbole*.

The second, or close sound, at the beginning of words, and when *o* is followed by a sounding syllable. Ex: *os, oter, hopital*.

The third, or open sound, when *o* is followed by *r*. Ex: *or, corps, alors, fort*.

SECOND EXERCISE.

READ AND MEMORIZE.

Ami, friend.	Port, port.
Abri, shelter.	Car, for.
Anis, aniseed.	Fort, strong.
Avis, advice.	Bol, bowl.
Cabri, goat.	Col, collar.
Tôt, soon.	Rôti, roasted.
Trop, too much.	Os, bone.
Or, gold.	Lit, bed.
Nord, north.	Lot, lot.

Pot, jar.
 Nid, nest.
 Sur, on.
 Mal, *n.* evil.
 Pur, pure,
 Fut, *v.* was.
 Cru, raw.
 Joli, pretty.

Poli, polite.
 Uni, smooth.
 Fât, fop.
 Nud, naked.
 Amas, heap.
 Rassis, stale.
 Mal, *adv.* badly.

Ananas, pine-apple.

Hopital, hospital.

Animal, animal.

Fanal, lamp.

Hormis, save.

Naval, naval.

Capital, capital.

Carnaval, carnival.

Calcul, calculation.

Surplus, surplus.

Plus, more.

Fusil, gun.

Tordu, twisted.

Il fila, *v.* he spun.

Il ira, *v.* he shall go.

Il usa, *v.* he used.

The following verbs are
 all in the 3d sing. of the
 Perfect :

Il usurpa, he usurped.

imita, imitated.

irrita, irritated.

pila, pounded.

affirma, affirmed.

annula, annulled.

dora, gilded.

figura, figured.

QUESTIONS.—When do the vowels a, i, y and u, lose their original sound?—What is the original sound of these vowels?—How many sounds has O?—When is the first of these sounds given?—The second?—The third?

Third Lesson.

THE VOWEL E, AND THE ACCENTS.

We have seen, in the preceding lesson, the variations of sound in a, i, o, u. The vowel e is the only one whose sound changes entirely according to what sign is placed over it, or by what consonant it is followed; and these changes are so important that the student cannot study them too carefully.

E. The name of this letter and its sound when it has the acute accent (´) placed over it, thus, *é*, is like the a in *hate*, *fate*.

Without this accent, it has the same sound in the following cases :

1st. When it precedes a double consonant followed by a sounding syllable, as in *effrayer*, *dessin*, *essaim*.

2d. When followed by x before a vowel. Ex: *examiner*, *exemple*.

3d. When, being followed by r, it ends a verb or a word of more than one syllable. Ex: *aimer* (v.), *jeter* (v.), *dossier*, *cahier*. In these words the r is not sounded. Except *Amer*, *Jupiter*, *Lucifer*, *hiver*, *hier*, and the Latin words *pater*, *mater*, *frater*, etc., in which the r is sounded and the e takes the grave or open sound.

4th. When followed by *z*, at the end of a word, this consonant is mute and the *e* has the shut sound. Ex: *allez, chez, nez*; pronounce *allé, ché, né*.

With the grave accent (`) *E* has the sound of the English *e* in *bet*. Ex: *abcès, succès, fidèle*.

Without this accent it still has the same sound:

1st. In monosyllables ending with *s*, and all words ending with *t*, (these consonants not sounded,) *les, mes, des, est, sujet, parapet*. Except the conjunction *et*, which is pronounced like English *a*.

2d. Before two different consonants: *escalier, respira, veste*.

3d. Before double consonants, when the following syllable is mute. Ex: *guerre, tendresse, largesse, nette*.

4th. Before all sounding final consonants. Ex: *bec, fiel, bel*, and in monosyllables ending with *r*, *mer, fer, cher*.

5th. In *ex* followed by a consonant: *excellent, exprès*.

The circumflex accent (^) gives *e* a longer sound than the grave. The difference is to be found in *BET* and *THERE*; in the word *extrême* the first *e* has its sound in *bet*, the second is like the first *e* in *there*.

Pronounce *é* shut, *è* open, *ê* long.

E, without any accent, is mute at the end of French words, as it is in English in *are, fare*, etc.

But, in French, the addition of an s, to form the plural, does not change the sound; *race* or *races*, *belle* or *belles*, sound as if written *rass*, *bel*. The 3d person plural in verbs, is formed by the addition of *nt* or *ent* to the 3d singular; these additional letters, like the s, are mute and never change the sound; pronounce alike: *elle rêve* and *elles rêvent*, *il aime* and *ils aiment*. REMEMBER WELL THIS RULE.

This mute e, placed between g and the vowels a, o, u, gives this consonant the soft sound of j. Ex: *gagea*.

When e is the final letter of a monosyllable, or, when it is placed between two consonants, it has a peculiar guttural sound which has no representative in English. Ex: *le, me, te, ne, que, mener, revenir*. This e is pronounced in poetry and public reading; but, in familiar conversation, the French often suppress it, as the English do in the word *battery*, where the e only serves to lengthen the sound of the preceding vowel, but is not itself sounded. The frequent suppression of this sound is what makes the utterance of French people appear so rapid and sometimes unintelligible to foreigners. For instance, "*Je veux vous mener promener*," is pronounced "*J'veux vous m'ner prom'ner*;" reducing the number of syllables in the sentence from eight to five. It must be borne in mind, however,

that the faint *e* is *the only vowel that can be thus suppressed*.

When the monosyllables *je, te, le, me, ne, que*, happen before a word commencing with a vowel or silent *h*, the *e* is *elided*, that is, suppressed and an apostrophe placed instead. Thus, I arrive, must be translated *j'arrive*, and not *je arrive*; the friend, (f.) *l'amie*, and not *la amie*. This is to avoid the disagreeable effect of two vowel sounds coming in contact. The apostrophe is only an orthographical sign showing that a vowel has been suppressed; it has no sound, and the words in the example should be pronounced as if written *jarrive, lamie*.

QUESTIONS.—When does *e* have the sound of *a* in *fate*?—When does it have the sound of *e* in *bet*?—What sound has *e* with the circumflex accent?—What sound has *e*, without an accent, at the end of words?—When *s* is added to form the plural, or *nt* to form the 3d person plural of verbs, what change takes place in the sound?—What effect has *e* placed between *g* and the vowels *a, o, u*?—What sound has *e*, when it is the final letter of a monosyllable, or when it is placed between two consonants?—When is *e* suppressed?

THIRD EXERCISE.

Animé,	animated.	Succès,	success.
Flatté,	flattered.	Après,	after.
Saluer,	to salute.	Près,	near.
Diadème,	diadem.	Crème,	cream.
Arriver,	to arrive.	Assiette,	plate.
Arrivé,	arrived, p p.	Verre,	glass.
Il arriva,	he arrived.	Serviette,	napkin.
Allumer, to	light, kindle.	Nappe,	table cloth.
Allumera,	shall light.	Table,	table.
Examiner,	to examine.	Tablier,	apron.
Imité,	imitated.	Fable,	fable.
Potier,	potter.	Essuyer,	to wipe.
Félonie,	felony.	Pécher,	to sin.
Filer,	to spin.	Péché,	sin.
Ordure,	dirt.	Pêcher,	to fish.
Café,	coffee.	Avarice,	avarice.
Utilité,	usefulness.	Avare,	miser.
Reposer,	to rest.	Sâle,	dirty.
Multitude,	multitude.	Salle,	hall.
Matelas,	mattress.	La halle,	market.
Matelot,	sailor.	La gale,	the itch.
Habile,	clever.	Ratelier,	manger.
Georgie,	Georgia.	Prêter,	to lend.
Géographie,	geography.	Le sel,	the salt.
Hospitalité,	hospitality.	La selle,	the saddle.
Respirer,	to breathe.	Supplier,	to beseech.

Même,	even.	Le papier,	the paper.
Extrême,	extreme.	Ma farine,	my flour.
Suprême,	supreme.	Il va,	he goes.
Fête,	festival.	Elle va,	she goes.
Espérer,	to hope.	Venir,	to come.
Espère,	hope (<i>imp.</i>)	Devenir,	to become.
Attitude,	attitude.	Revenir,	to come back.
Serrure,	lock.	Revenu, <i>p.p.</i>	come back.
Serrurier,	locksmith.	Renégat,	renegade.
Rabot,	plane.	L'homme,	the man.
Jabot,	frill.	La femme,	the woman.
La scie,	the saw.	L'âne (<i>m.</i>)	the ass.
La plume,	the pen.	L'os (<i>m.</i>)	the bone.

Fourth Lesson.

COMPOUND VOWELS.

In French, two or three vowels are sometimes combined to form certain simple sounds. They are called "compound vowels" (*voyelles composées*). We give their corresponding English sound:

Ea, ai, ei, eo, au, eau, æ, ou, oi,
 a in father. ay. e in bet. o. o. o. ay. oo. wa in water.
 and *eu, æu*, which have no representative in English.

The diæresis ("), in French, *tréma*, placed over one of the vowels, restores to each its original sound. Thus, *mais* becomes ma-ïs; *saul*, sa-ül; *aïeux*, a-ïeux.

NASAL SOUNDS—(*voyelles nasales.*)

These are simple sounds formed by the combination of one or two vowels with the consonants *m* and *n*.

Remember that these final consonants only serve to give a *new* sound to the vowel, but are never articulated. Here we have one of the principal difficulties of French pronunciation, for, in English, besides the new vowel sound, the final consonant is pronounced with a sort of vibration produced by touching the roof of the mouth with the tongue, as in the words *am*, *an*, *on*. This must be avoided by all means in pronouncing French nasal sounds. If we try to pronounce these words *without raising the tongue*, we shall have the true French sound.

Am, *an*, *ean*, *aen*, *aon*, *em*, *en*, have nearly the sound of *an* in *wang*. But when *en* comes after *i*, at the end of a word, it has nearly the sound of *en* in *ending*; *bien*, *lien*.

Im, *in*, *aim*, *ain*, *ein*, have also nearly the sound *en* in *ending*.

Om, *on*, *eon*, like English *on*, suppressing the vibration of the *n*.

Um, *un*, *eun*, the nearest approach to this sound is found in the word *sung*.

U, *eu* and *œu*, *un* and *eun*, being sounds entirely

foreign to the English language, have to be learned from the teacher. These sounds can be obtained by observing the following mechanical process:

To pronounce *u*, the lips are puckered, giving but a narrow outlet for the sound to escape; if, then, we drop slightly the lower jaw, we get the sound *un*; by dropping it a little more and forcing the sound from the throat, we obtain *eu*.

When a nasal syllable is followed by a vowel, the nasal sound is destroyed, and the first vowel (simple or compound) resumes its original sound, two syllables being formed instead of one. Ex: *un*, *u-ne*; *jeun*, *jeu-ne*; *plan*, *pla-ne*; *brun*, *bru-ne*; *grain*, *grai-ne*.

Masculine nouns and adjectives ending in *ien* and *on*, form the feminine by doubling the consonant and adding a mute *e*. In this case, the vowel's original sound is pronounced open. *Bon*, *bonne*; *lion*, *lio-nne*; *chien*, *chie-nne*.

DIPHTHONGS—(*diphthongues*.)

The diphthong is the combination of a simple vowel with a nasal or compound one, forming two distinct, but closely connected sounds, in one emission of the voice:

Iai, *iau*, *ieu*, *iou*, *oué*, *oui*, *ien*, *ian*, *ion*, *oin*, *ui*, *uin*.

REMARKS.—The letter *y*, between two other vowels, has the sound of two distinct *i*s, the first combining with the preceding vowel, and the second sounded in the next syllable. Thus, *pays* is pronounced *pai-is*; *moyen*, *moi-ien*; *croyant*, *croi-iant*.

The combinations *ail*, *aille*, have a liquid sound, not unlike that of *I'll* in English. *Eil*, *eille*, have likewise a liquid sound, which could be produced in English by the combination *ei'll*, giving *ei* the sound these vowels have in *their*, and adding the final sound of *I'll*.

Ti, in English, has the sound of *sh*, before *en* and *on*, as in *position*, *patience*; in French nouns and adjectives, this syllable is pronounced *ci*; thus, *position*, *patience*, *patient*, are to be pronounced *posicion*, *pacience*, *pacient*. It must be remarked that in the last two words *en* is followed by a consonant; when that syllable ends a word and has the sound of *en* in *end*, the *t* preserves its original sound; thus in *chrétien*, *maintien*, *ti* has the same sound as in the English word “Christian.”

But, in the verbs, *t* preserves its natural sound before *ien* and *ion*, though a consonant may follow; and we pronounce as written, *je maintiens*, *nous répétions*, *il soutient*.

QUESTIONS.—What is a “compound vowel?”—What effect has the diæresis placed on one of the letters of a compound vowel?—What is a “nasal vowel,” or sound?—What must we observe when pronouncing a nasal vowel, to give it the true French sound?—How can we obtain the French sound of *u*, *eu*, *un*?—What is the effect of a vowel placed after a nasal sound?—When masculine words end in *ien* and *ion*, how is the feminine formed, and what is the pronunciation?—What is a diphthong?—How is *y* pronounced between two other vowels?—What about *ail* and *eil*?—What about *ti* preceding *en* or *on*?—How in the verbs?

FOURTH EXERCISE.

Je suis bien heureux,
I am very happy.

Tu es un bon enfant,
Thou art a good child.

Il est malheureux,
He is unhappy.

Elle est bonne,
She is good.

Nous sommes arrivés,
We are arrived.

Vous êtes studieux,
You are studious.

Ils sont polis,
They are polite.

Elles sont jolies,
They are pretty.

Bonjour, monsieur,
Good morning (or day,) sir,

Bonsoir, messieurs,
Good evening, sirs (or gentlemen.)

Asseyez-vous, mon ami,
Sit down, my friend.

Prenez un livre,
Take a book.

Donnez moi une plume,
Give me a pen.

Prêtez-moi votre crayon,
Lend me your pencil.

J'ai du pain frais,
I have some bread (2) fresh. (1)

Battez le tambour,
Beat the drum.

Sonnez la trompette,
Sound the trumpet.

Voulez-vous du vin nouveau?
Do you want some new (2) wine? (1)

Mon verre est plein,
My glass is full.

Donnez-moi de l'eau,
Give me some water.

J'irai moi-même,
I shall go myself.

J'aime le beurre,
I love (like) butter.

Le temps est beau,
The weather is fine.

Passez moi le sucre,
Pass me the sugar.

Mon café est sucré,
My coffee is sweetened.

Avez-vous de la crème?
Have you some cream?

Elle a de l'amitié pour moi,
She has some friendship for me.

Cet homme est bienveillant,
That man is benevolent.

Sa position est cruelle,
His position is cruel.

Elle est remplie de passion,
She is full of passion.

Soyez patient et attentif,
Be patient and attentive.

Mademoiselle Clara est bien.
Miss Clara is well.

Elle a de beaux yeux,
She has beautiful eyes.

C'est une bonne résolution,
It is a good resolution.

Nous prendrons un fiacre,
We shall take a hack.

Donnez-lui de la paille,
Give him some straw.

Ton bœuf a mangé mon foin,
Thy ox has eaten my hay.

Ayez bien soin de lui,
Have good care of him.

Une grande satisfaction,
A great satisfaction.

Voila l'oiseau bleu,
There is the bird (2) blue. (1)

J'ai un manteau noir,
I have a cloak (2) black. (1)

Il a des pigeons blancs,
He has some pigeons (2) white. (1)

Avez vous de la moutarde ?
Have you some (any) mustard ?

Allons déjeuner, messieurs,
Let us go to breakfast, gentlemen.

Nous n'avons pas encore dîné,
We have not yet dined.

Je maintiens ce fait,
I maintain this fact.

Ce mouton est trop gras,
This mutton (or sheep) is too fat.

Il y a trop de graisse,
There is too much fat.

Prenez vos vêtements,
Take your clothes.

Boutonnez votre habit,
Button your coat.

La boutonnière est trop étroite,
The button-hole is too narrow.

Ses bottes sont luisantes,
His boots are glittering.

Le roi et la reine de France,
The King and Queen of France.

Nous croyons en un Dieu suprême,
We believe in a God supreme.

Nettoyez votre ardoise,
Cleanse your slate.

Jean est imprudent,
John is imprudent.

THE CONSONANTS.

NOTE.—The English pronunciation will be given to all consonants for which no rules are laid here.

Final consonants are articulated before a word beginning with a vowel or *h* mute. But harmony of sound makes many exceptions to this rule, and where a discordant sound would be produced by the articulation of the final consonant, it is better to suppress it. Abbé d'Olivet remarks on this subject, that "the French prefer an irregularity to a discordance."

Some final consonants are articulated when a word stands alone or before the consonant of another word. These, therefore, form an exception to the rule, and must be remembered.

B in proper names and in *radoub* (the refitting of a ship) is articulated even before a consonant.

C has the English sound before all the vowels ;

that is, the sound of *k* before *a*, *o*, *u*, and the sound of hard *s* before *e*, *i*, *y*. But it assumes this *s* sound before *a*, *o*, *u*, when a cedilla is placed under it. Thus, we pronounce *façade*, *façon*, *reçu*, as if written *fa-sad*, *fa-son*, *re-su*.

In the words *second* and *secrétaire*, *c* has the sound of *g*. The final *c* is silent in the words *accroc*, *arsenic*, *broc*, *cotignac*, *marc* (weight or grounds,) *estomac*, *lacs* (love knots;) in the last syllable of *succinct* and *porc-épic*; and after nasal sounds, as *banc*, *convainc*, etc. But it is articulated in *donc* at the beginning of a sentence and in compound words, as *franc-encens*.

Ch has the sound of English *sh*, except in the following words, where it is pronounced like *k*:—*Catéchumène*, *chersonese*, *anachronisme*, and others which will be given in the exercise.

D final sounds like *t* before a vowel or *h* mute. It is silent in *sourd*, *nid*, in the terminations *ond*, *rond*, and after an *r*, as in *fuyard*, *accord*, etc. But it must be articulated after the third person of verbs followed by *il* or *à*; *répond-il*? *Il entend à demi*.

F is mute in *clef*, *cerf*, and in the plurals *nerfs*, *œufs*, *bœufs*.

G, when articulated at the end of the words *sang*, *rang*, before an adjective or the conjunction *et*, it has the sound of *k*. It is, otherwise, generally mute at the end of words even before a vowel.

In the word *gangrene*, the first *g* sounds like *c*. Before *a*, *o*, *u*, it has the hard English sound, but before *e*, *i*, *y*, the *g* takes the soft sound of *z* in the word *azure*.

J has also this soft *z* sound before all the vowels.

Gn has a peculiar sound not found in English, except in the word *mignonette*, which is taken from the French. In *stagnant*, *diagnostic*, and a few other words, the *g* and *n* are articulated separately, thus, *stag-nant*.

Gu has its sound represented in *league*, that is, the *u* is not sounded; but in the words *aigu*, *aigüe*, *aiguille*, *aiguillon*, *sanguinaire*, and *Guise* (proper name,) the *u* is articulated.

H is either mute or aspirated at the beginning of a word. Mute, it has no sound whatever; *homme*, *honneur*, are pronounced *omme*, *onneur*. When aspirated it has not the harsh sound of English *h*; it is simply the hiatus occasioned by the meeting of two vowels, as in English, *go in*, *go on*. If the preceding word ends with a vowel, this cannot be elided; if a consonant, it cannot be connected with the aspirated *h*. Thus we say *le héros*, *la honte*, *un hâbleur*, instead of *l'héros*, *l'honte*, *u-nhableur*, which would be the case if the *h* was mute.

L is articulated at the end of words, except *baril*, *chenil*, *fusil*, *gentil*, *gril*, *outil*, *nombril*, *persil*, *soûl*, *sourcil*, *pouls*, *fils* (son,) wherein it is mute

even before a vowel. The double *l* has sometimes a liquid sound ; this occurs when it is preceded by *i*, as *fil*le, *v*rille, *f*aucille. However, in *vil*le, *vil*lage, *vil*lageois, *vil*lanelle, *vil*lette, it sounds like *ll* in the English word *vil*lage.

M, followed by *n*, is not articulated in *dam*ner, *condam*ner, *autom*ne, but it is pronounced in *indem*-*niser*. The final *m* is never articulated when it forms a nasal sound ; but, in proper names and the words *hem*, *item*, *idem*, it is always articulated.

N, final, is always articulated in *exa*men and *hym*en.

P does not sound when followed by *t*, except in *baptis*mal. In *coup*, *beau*coup, *trop*, it is articulated before a vowel. It is mute in *cep*.

Q. This consonant is articulated in *coq*, and in *cin*q before a vowel or *h* mute, or when *cin*q ends a sentence. In *Coq-d'Inde* the *q* is mute.

Qu sounds like *k* ; that is, the *u* is mute, except in the following words :

In *aquatique*, *équateur*, *équation*, *in-quarto*, *quadragén*aire, *quadragésime*, *quadrature*, *quadruple*, *quadrupède*, *quaker*, its sound is like *coo*,—*acooa-tique*.

In *à quia*, *équestre*, *équitation*, *liqué*fier, *questeur*, *quintuple*, *quirinal*, *Quintilien*, *Quinte-curce*, the *q* takes the *k* sound, and the *u* is articulated *à cu-ia é-cu-estre*.

R. This consonant is articulated very full at

the beginning or in the middle of a word. When final after the vowels *a, i, o, u*, it is always articulated. But in the infinitive of verbs of the first conjugation, the *r* is sounded only before a vowel of *h* mute. Thus we pronounce *aimer l'étude* and *aimer à chanter*, as if written *aimé l'étude, aiméra chanté*.

In other words than verbs, of one or two syllables, and ending in *er*, the final *r* is articulated and the *e* sounded open: *fer, cher, amer*. The same pronunciation is given in the words *Jupiter, Lucifer*, and, we may add, foreign proper names, as *Latimer, Mortimer*.

S, final, does not sound before a consonant, except in some words which will be given in the exercise.

Between two vowels, a single *s* has the soft sound of *z*, except in a few compound words where the simple word commenced with *s*, as *présupposer*.

Between two consonants or a vowel and a consonant, or when double, *s* has the hard sound which is given in English at the beginning of a word: *absolu, satisfaction, poisson*.

The words in which the final *t* is articulated will be given in the exercise.

X sounds like *gz* at the beginning of a word or when preceded by a vowel, except *Auxerre, Auxonne, Bruxelles*, where it is pronounced like *ss*.

When final, before a vowel, *x* is pronounced like *z*; thus, *beaux yeux* must be pronounced *bo-zieux*.

Z is articulated at the end of proper names only, as *Suez*, *Rhodez*.

QUESTIONS.—When is *b* articulated?—What sound has *c* before the vowels?—What sound has *c* in the words *second* and *secrétaire*?—When is the final *c* silent?—What is the sound of *ch*?—What is the final sound of *d* before a vowel or *h* mute?—When is it silent?—When articulated?—When is final *f* mute?—When has final *g* the sound of *k*?—What sound has *c* before *a*, *o*, *u*?—Before *e*, *i*, *y*?—What sound has *j*?—What is the sound of *gn*?—How do you pronounce *gu*?—Explain the difference between *h* mute and *h* aspirated.—In what words is final *l* mute?—What is the sound of *ll*?—When is *m* articulated?—When is it not articulated?—In what words do you articulate the final *n*?—When is *p* not to be sounded?—When is it articulated before a vowel?—When mute?—When is *q* articulated?—What about *qu*?—When is *r* articulated and when silent?—Is final *s* generally articulated?—What is the sound of *s* between two vowels?—What is its sound at the beginning of a word, between two consonants, or between a consonant and a vowel?—Is final *t* generally articulated?—What is the sound of *x*?—When is final *z* articulated?

FIFTH EXERCISE.

Avez vous fini le radoub de ce vaisseau?
Have you finished the refitting of that ship?

Il a reçu son congé définitif,
He has received his final (2) discharge. (1)

Donnez nous deux brocs de vin,
Give us two jugs of wine.

Mettez votre chapeau,
Put on your hat.

Je n'ai plus de plomb,
I have no more lead.

C'est sa façon d'agir,
It is his way of acting.

Ce banc est trop dur,
This bench is too hard.

La chaleur me fatigue,
The heat fatigues me.

Pronounce *ch* like *k* in the following :

Chiromancie,	catéchumène,	chersonèse,
Palmistry,	catechumen,	chersonese,
Archonte,	archange,	chaos,
Archon,	archangel,	chaos,

Chronologie,	Melchior,	orchestre,
Chronology,	Melchior,	orchestra,
Patriarchat,	Michel Ange.	
Patriarchship,	Michael Angelo.	

Washington fut un grand homme,
Washington was a great man.

Essayez ma clef de montre,
Try my watch-key.

J'ai pris le nid avec l'oiseau,
I have taken the nest with the bird.

Qui vole un œuf peut voler un bœuf,
Who steals an egg can steal an ox.

Voulez vous une aiguille?
Do you want a needle?

La ligne droite est la plus courte,
The straight (2) line (1) is the shortest.

La vigne du Seigneur,
The vineyard of the Lord.

Un héros vertueux,
A virtuous (2) hero. (1)

Le chef est sourd à notre appel,
The chief is deaf to our appeal.

Ce bœuf a la gangrène,
This ox has gangrene (is mortified.)

Achetez une douzaine d'œufs,
Buy a dozen of eggs.

Le duc de Guise est le chef de la ligue,
The duke of Guise is the chief of the league.

Cette eau stagnante est infecte,
That stagnant water is infectious.

Mon chien est très vaillant,
My dog is very valiant (brave.)

Ce hâbleur continue sa harangue,
That lying babbler continues his speech.

J'admire la housse de votre cheval,
I admire the housing of your horse.

Ma fille est allée à la ville.
My daughter is gone to the city.

J'irai demain au collège,
I will go to-morrow to the college.

Il est condamné à mort,
He is condemned to death.

J'aime beaucoup à étudier,
I like much to study.

Répétez cinq ou six fois,
Repeat five or six times.

Le chameau est un quadrupède,
The camel is a quadruped.

Une statue équestre,
An equestrian (2) statue. (1)
Adorer Dieu, aimer le prochain,
To worship God, to love our neighbor.

Quel air pur et embaumé!
What pure and balmy air!

Aimez vous le poisson?
Do you like fish?

Craignez le poison,
Fear poison.

La moisson est superbe,
The crop is superb.

Il s'est démis la hanche,
He has sprained his hip.

Le hibou est hideux,
The owl is hideous.

Mon fils est au village,
My son is in the village.

Les fils sont rompus,
The threads are broken.

Je vous indemniserai,
I will indemnify (2) you. (1)

Vous êtes exempté de la peine,
You are exempted from the penalty.

J'ai un coq et un coq-d'Inde,
I have a cock and a turkey-cock.

Un animal aquatique,
An aquatic animal.

Avez-vous lu Quintilien ?
Have you read Quintilian ?

Croyez vous avoir fini bientôt ?
Do you think you will have finished soon ?

Je vais bientôt finir,
I am going soon to finish.

Je suis bien résolu,
I am well resolved.

Mon père est absent,
My father is absent.

Ma mère était présente,
My mother was present.

OBSERVATIONS ON PRONUNCIATION.

We have seen that some of the final consonants are articulated before another consonant; these are *always* articulated. The final consonants which are articulated only before vowels, like a connecting link between two words, are pronounced in reciting poetry, in public speaking or reading ;

to give this pronunciation correctly, we must take care not to pause after the consonant, but to pronounce it as if it belonged to the next word. Thus, *facheux évènement, charmant enfant*, should be pronounced *facheu zévènement, charman tenfant*. But, in familiar conversation and ordinary reading, it is not customary to sound these final consonants, except in the articles *les, des, aux*; the possessive adjectives *mes, tes, ses, nos, vos, leurs*; the demonstrative adjective *ces*, the preposition *dès*, and, we may safely add, all words of one syllable.

Particular attention should be given to the punctuation, so as to make the necessary pauses, and avoid jumbling the words together. One cannot read more than eight syllables without pausing to take breath, and this pause may be made after a lesser number, provided we take care to pause only between two words independent from one another.

Every sounding syllable must be pronounced distinctly and fully. The pupil should open the mouth more than when speaking English; avoid touching the roof of the mouth with the tongue, and learn to pronounce slowly. When the correct articulation is once acquired, there will be no difficulty in training the tongue to a clear and rapid enunciation.

Lesson.---Gender.

The most frequent blunders of Anglo-Saxons, when they attempt to speak French, consist in the misuse of the gender. The reason of this is obvious: in French we have no neuter gender, and, consequently, all nouns must be either masculine or feminine. This appears at first sight the source of much confusion and difficulty, particularly when we are told that, in French, the article and the adjective accompanying a noun must agree with it in gender. But certain rules enable us to ascertain the gender of the noun itself, and the sooner we become familiar with these rules, the easier will our task become. And the article and adjective, far from complicating the difficulty, will help us to find the gender of the noun with which they agree. This will be fully demonstrated in the lessons treating of the article and the adjective.

The French have ten parts of speech, viz: The *noun*, the *article*, the *adjective*, the *pronoun*, the *verb*, the *participle*, the *adverb*, the *preposition*, the *conjunction*, and the *interjection*. The last four are invariable.

QUESTIONS.—How many genders in French?—How many parts of speech?

Of Nouns and their Gender.

1st. *General rule* : all nouns that are masculine or feminine in English, preserve their gender in French. It is, therefore, only the neuter nouns—that is, the name of *inanimate things*—which must be made either masculine or feminine when rendered in French. It is evident that if we translate “father,” *père* ; “mother,” *mère* ; and “chair,” *chaise*, we know that *père* must be a masculine noun, *mère* feminine, and we are only embarrassed to find the gender of *chaise*, because it was neuter in English.

This rule applies to all names of animals, varying according to their sex, as cock, hen ; horse, mare ; lion, lioness, etc.

The names of most birds and fishes not indicating the sex are either masculine or feminine, but more frequently the former.

2d. In French, the termination of the noun frequently helps us to find its gender. We know a noun to be feminine when it ends in one of the following syllables :

Aie, ie, ue, oie, oue, ée, tié, té, elle, ille, ière, ance, anse, ence, ense, sion, tion, xion, atte, ette, outte, utte.

EXCEPT—

1st. *Paix, brebis, perdrix, fourmi, la merci,*
 peace. ewe. partridge. ant. mercy.

nuit, souris, bru, glu, vertu, tribu, croix, voix,
night. mouse. daughter- glue. virtue. tribe. cross. voice.
in-law.

noix, *poix*, *loi*, *foi*, and *fois*, which are feminine ;
nut. pitch. law. faith. time.

2d. and *amphibie*, génie, *impie*, incendie,
amphibious, genius. impious, conflagration.
parapluie, apogée, *caducée*, *coryphée*, lycée,
umbrella. apogeon. caduceus. coryphœus, lyceum.

mausolée, musée, périgée, pygmée, trophée,
mausoleum. museum. perigeum. pigmy. trophy.
which are masculine.

3d. *Lierre*, ivy; and *cimetière*, church-yard, are also masculine.

It will be seen from the above that the final mute *e*, after another vowel, and the nasal sound *on*, preceded by *si*, *ti*, and *xi*, generally indicate a feminine noun. Final consonants and the other vowels generally indicate the masculine gender; and *e*, after a consonant, ends words of both genders. There are, however, many exceptions to this rule, which can only be learned by practice and much reading. We shall precede all such nouns used in the exercise by *le* for the masculine and *la* for the feminine.

QUESTIONS.—How can we tell the gender, in French, of nouns that are either masculine or feminine in English?—How about names of animals?—How about neuter nouns?—What is the termination of feminine nouns?—What are the exceptions?—What final letters generally indicate a noun to be feminine, and which masculine?

EXERCISE.

Give the gender of the following nouns:

craie, vie, vue, joie, boue, fée, amitié, pitié,
chalk. life. sight. joy. mud. fairy. friendship. pity.

querelle, ville, lumière, espérance, danse, enfance,
quarrel. town. light. hope. dance. infancy.

infamie, prudence, passion, pétition, reflexion,
infamy, prudence, passion, petition, reflection.

chat, chatte, fourchette, goût, goutte, lutte, bal,
cat. she cat. fork. taste. drop. struggle. ball.

stupidité, folie, fou, la table, la chaise, le tableau
stupidity. folly. madman. the table. the chair. the picture.

le cocher, le cuisinier, la cuisinière, la cuisine,
the coachman. the (man) cook. the (woman) cook. the kitchen.

l'eau, feu, chandelle, plat, assiette, bouteille,
the water. fire. candle. dish. plate. bottle.

la cuiller, vin, pain, le verre, fille, joue,
the spoon. wine. bread. the glass. girl. cheek.

nez, oreille, la bouche, la lèvre, l'œil,
nose. ear. the mouth. the lip. the eye.

front, cheveu, la main, bras, pied, la plume,
forehead. hair. the hand. arm. foot. the pen.

papier, le livre, le lievre, lapin, hutte, soulier,
paper. the book. the hare. rabbit. hut. shoe.

bas, jarretière, la botte, la hotte, chapeau,
stocking. garter. the boot. the hod. hat.

gant, doigt, la dent, ambition, la balle,
glove. finger. the tooth. ambition. the ball.

la maison, la toison, le poison, le poisson, huitre,
the house. the fleece. poison. fish. oyster.

taureau, vache, coq, poule, poulet, œuf (*m.*)
bull. cow. cock. hen. chicken. egg.

lait, chien, requin, l'arbre (*m.*) feuille, gaieté,
milk. dog. shark. the tree. leaf. gaiety.

plaisir, tombeau, charrette, lionne, jument, bouc,
pleasure. tomb. cart. lioness. mare. he-goat.

lance, garçon, frère, sœur, habit, oncle, tante,
lance. boy. brother. sister. coat. uncle. aunt.

tente, oiseau, hirondelle, la brise, vent,
tent. bird. swallow. the breeze. wind.

la lune, le soleil,
the moon. the sun.

Formation of the Plural.

3d. *General rule.*—The plural of nouns is formed by adding an *s* to the singular.

EXCEPT—

1st. Nouns ending in the singular with *s*, *x*, *z*, which preserve their termination in the plural:
Ex: *bois*, *poix*, *nez*.

2d. Nouns ending in *au* and *eu*, take an *x* in the plural: *tableau*, picture; *tableaux*, pictures; *feu*, fire; *feux*, fires.

3d. Nouns ending in *ou* take an *s* in the plural, except *bijou*, jewel; *caillou*, pebble; *chou*, cabbage; *genou*, knee; *joujou*, toy; *hibou*, owl; and *pou*, louse; which take an *x*.

4th. Nouns in *al* change their termination in *aux*, except the following, to which we simply add an *s*, viz: *aval*, endorsement; *bal*, ball; *cal*, callosity; *carnaval*, carnival; *nopal*, nopal-tree; *pale*; *régale*, treat; *chacal*, jackal; *serval*, tiger-cat. Thus we say *le cheval*, *les chevaux*; *le bal*, *les bals*.

5th. The following nouns in *ail* change that termination in *aux*, viz: *bail*, lease; *émail*, enamel; *corail*, coral; *soupirail* (the air-hole in a cellar;) *vantail* (the leaf of a door or shutter;) and *travail*, work. *Ail*, garlic, forms *aïux* in the plural.

All other nouns with the termination *ail*, form the plural by the addition of an *s*.

6th. The nouns *ciel*, *œil*, *aïeul*, have two different plurals, according to the sense in which they are used.

CIEL, meaning the "sky," and *ciel de lit* (bed-tester,) form the plural by the addition of an *s*.

CIEL, meaning "heaven," becomes *cieux* in the plural.

ŒIL, meaning "eye," the organ of sight, makes *yeux* in the plural. In other cases, such as *œil de bœuf* (bull's eye,) and to designate the cavities or "eyes" in cheese or bread, the plural is *œils*.

AÏEUL (grandfather) forms *aïeuls*, when we speak of one's maternal and paternal grandfathers; but, when used in the general sense of "forefathers," it becomes *aïeux*.

QUESTIONS.—How is the plural of nouns generally formed?—How in nouns ending in *s*, *x*, *z*?—How with those ending in *au* or *eu*?—Those in *ou*?—Those in *al*?—Those in *ail*?—What words have two plurals?—What about *ciel*? *œil*? *aïeul*?

EXERCISE.

Form the plural of the French nouns given here in the singular:

The castles of the Kings.

Les château des roi.

The laws of those countries,
Les loi de ces pays.

I have bought the pictures,
J'ai acheté les tableau.

Do you like jewels?
Aimez-vous les bijou?

Diamonds are but pebbles,
Les diamant ne sont que des caillou.

The jackals ate the horses,
Les chacal mangèrent les cheval.

We have fine balls here,
Nous avons de beaux bal ici.

Here are some toys,
Voici des joujou.

Lend me your books,
Prêtez moi vos livre.

What pretty enamels!
Quels jolis émail!

I prefer the corals,
Je préfère les corail.

Oh! the ugly noses!
Oh! les vilains nez!

Let us visit these woods,
Visitons ces bois.

Do you hear the tiger-cats?
Entendez-vous les serval?

Close the window-shutters,
Fermez les vantail de la fenêtre

The cries of the owls,
Les cri des hibou.

These folks are mad,
Ces gens sont fou.

Drive those nails,
Enfoncez ces clou.

How beautiful the heavens!
Que les ciel sont beaux!

He paints the finest skies,
Il peint les plus beaux ciel.

My two grandfathers are dead,
Mes deux aïeul sont morts.

He lost his two eyes,
Il perdit les deux œil.

Our forefathers were free,
Nos aïeul étaient libres.

That cheese is full of eyes,
Ce fromage est plein d'œil.

Fill the glasses,
Remplissez les verre.

Have you any fans?
Avez-vous des éventail?

The works of the Romans,
Les travail des Romains.

The journals of to-day,
Les journal d'aujourd'hui.

I have some good pencils,
J'ai de bons crayon.

Do you want some cabbages?
Voulez-vous des chou?

Those children are tired,
Ces enfant sont fatigués.

I had some cakes,
J'avais des gâteau.

The Article.

In French there is but one article, used before nouns in a definite sense. It is *le* before nouns and adjectives of the masculine gender and singular number; *la* before the feminine singular, and *les* before the plural nouns and adjectives of both genders. In place of the English indefinite article *a* or *an*, the French use the numeral adjective (one) *un* for the masculine, *une* for the feminine.

The article is so closely connected with the noun, and we have introduced it so often in the preceding exercises, that the student must have already become familiar with the important rule that—

The article always agrees in gender and number with the noun it precedes.

If, then, we translate from the English text, to render “the” in French, we must be guided by the gender and number of the noun it precedes.

On the other hand, if we are using the French text, the article itself will denote the gender and number of the singular nouns. Thus, if a Frenchman would be puzzled by the invariable *the* before “table” or “bench,” the Anglo-Saxon who reads *la table*, *le banc*, cannot fail to see that *table* is feminine and *banc* masculine.

When *la* or *le* occurs before a vowel or a mute *h*, the *a* or *e* is elided; that is, suppressed, and replaced by an apostrophe. This is required by the regard the French have for euphony: that is, the softness of pronunciation or the harmony of sound; the same reason why the English change *a* into *an*.

The article *le*, *les*, united to the prepositions *à* (to,) or *de* (of,) becomes a contracted article—a new word, in fact. We translate “to the boy,” “to the boys,” by *au garçon*, *aux garçons*; “of

the master," "of the masters," by *du maître, des maîtres*, instead of *à le garçon, de le maître*, etc.

But we must render "to the man," "of the friend," by *à l'homme, de l'ami*; and "to the men," "of the friends," by *aux hommes, des amis*, because, in the first example, the *e* of the article *le* being elided before a vowel or *h* mute, the contraction cannot take place; we cannot say *du ami, au homme*, because we could not have said *le ami, le homme*. In the second example, the article being in the plural, there is no elision, and consequently the contraction is possible. We say *des hommes, aux amis*, because we could have said *les hommes, les amis*. For the same reason the contraction takes place before a consonant or an aspirated *h*, since no elision is required before those letters, and we say *du héros, au hameau*.

The feminine singular *la* is never contracted; we say *de la femme, à l'âme*, (of the woman, to the soul.) But the plural *les* serving for both genders, is always contracted—*des femmes, aux âmes*.

QUESTIONS.—How many Articles are there in French?—What is used in place of *a* or *an*?—What is the important rule concerning the Article? What is done when *le* or *la* occurs before a vowel or mute *h*?—Why?—What is done when *le, les*, happen after the prepositions *à, de*?—And when

this happens before a vowel or mute *h*?—When is this contraction required?—Can the feminine article *la* be contracted?

EXERCISE.

The student will render the English Article in French, and fill the blanks:

I told (to the) man to come with the woman,
J'ai dit homme venir avec femme.

The lion is the king of (the) animals,
est roi

I say farewell to the friends of (the) Liberty,
Je dis adieu Liberté.

The English are a free and brave people,
Anglais sont un peuple(3) libre(1) et brave.(2)

I shall go to the house, to the school, to the theatre
J'irai maison (f.) école (f.) théâtre (m.)

Give me (of the or some) paper, (of the or some) pens, (of the or some) books,
Donnez-moi papier, plume,

Do you know the lesson to-day?
Savez vous leçon (f.) aujourd'hui?

Yes, sir, better than I knew the others,
Oui, monsieur, mieux que je n'ai su autres.

The last of the Mohicans,
dernier (m.) Mohicans.

The first woman, the first man, the last day,
premiere premier jour.

The joy of (the) children displeases (to) the old,
joie enfants déplaît vieux.

The stars are the lamps of the heavens,
étoiles sont lampes

Study the fifth lesson and the last exercises,
Etudiez cinquième et thèmes. (m.)

Say to the boys that the apples are ripe,
Dites garçons que pommes sont mûres.

I gave to the pupils the pens which the master gave
J'ai donné élèves que a donné

The young girls gave the flowers to the sick,
jeunes filles donnèrent fleurs (f.) malades
(m. pl.)

The head, the body, the arms, the knees, the feet,
tête, (f.) corps, bras, genou, pied.

The milk is spoilt, give it to the cat,
lait gâté, donnez le chat.

The kittens of the old cat are dead.
petits chats vieille chatte sont morts.

The Adjective.

The Adjective serves to express the qualities of a thing, or the conditions of being under which we consider it.

The French have two classes of adjectives, viz : *L'Adjectif qualificatif*, which expresses the quality belonging to the noun, as *bon*, good ; *joli*, pretty ; *brave*, brave.

L'Adjectif déterminatif, which determines or defines the condition of being of the thing spoken of. There are four sub-divisions of this adjective.

1st. The numeral adjectives, divided into cardinals and ordinals, as in English. *Un* (one) among the cardinals, and *premier*, *second* (first, second) among the ordinals, take a mute *e* before feminine nouns : *une*, *premiere*, *seconde*. The other numerals remain the same for both genders.

2d. The demonstrative adjectives *ce*, *cet* (this, that,) for the masculine singular ; *cette* for the feminine singular ; and *ces* (these, those,) for the plural of both genders. *Ce chien*, *cet homme*, *cette femme*, *ces hommes*, *ces femmes*.

3d. The possessive adjectives, which convey the idea of possession. They correspond with the English "possessive adjective pronouns," viz :

	<i>Masc. s.</i>	<i>Fem. s.</i>	<i>Pl. both genders.</i>
<i>My,</i>	<i>mon,</i>	<i>ma,</i>	<i>mes.</i>
<i>Thy,</i>	<i>ton,</i>	<i>ta,</i>	<i>tes.</i>
<i>His, her, its,</i>	<i>son,</i>	<i>sa,</i>	<i>ses.</i>
<i>Our,</i>	<i>notre,</i>	<i>notre,</i>	<i>nos.</i>
<i>Your,</i>	<i>votre,</i>	<i>votre,</i>	<i>vos.</i>
<i>Their,</i>	<i>leur,</i>	<i>leur,</i>	<i>leurs.</i>

NOTE.—*Mon, ton, son,* are used instead of *ma, ta, sa,* before a feminine noun beginning with a vowel or *h* mute. We say *mon âme, mon heure,* for the same reason that we elide the vowel in the article *le, la* ; that is, for the sake of euphony.

4th. The indefinite adjectives :

Chaque, chacun—each, each one ; *tout*—all ; *nul* and *aucun*—no or none ; *même*—same, even ; *quelque*—some ; *plusieurs*—several ; *tel*—such ; *quel*—which or what ; *quelconque*—whatsoever.

A careful study of the possessive adjective, like that of the article, will enable us to avoid frequent mistakes. In English the words *my, thy, his, her, its, our, your, their,* are pronouns, and must be of the same number and gender as the *noun for which they stand* ; but, in French, the words corresponding to these are adjectives, and must agree *with the noun which they qualify or determine.* Thus, in English, we will use the pronoun *my* before *father, mother, brothers,* because it indicates

sufficiently that the first person singular is represented; but in French we shall have to say *mon père*, *ma mère*, *mes frères*, because the nouns to which the adjectives *mon*, *ma*, *mes* add the idea of possession, are respectively masculine, feminine, and plural. For the same reason we will translate *his mother*, *her father*, by *sa mère*, *son père*, whether the person whose father and mother we speak of is man or woman; the adjective having nothing to do with that person, but agreeing with the nouns father and mother.

QUESTIONS.—What does the adjective express? How many classes of adjectives is there in French?—What adjectives serve to qualify nouns? Which class of adjectives define the condition of being of the noun?—What are the sub-divisions? Enumerate the demonstrative adjectives; the possessive adjectives.—When are *mon*, *ton*, *son*, used instead of *ma*, *ta*, *sa*?—Enumerate the indefinite adjectives.—Explain the difference between *my*, *thy*, etc., and *mon*, *ton*, etc.

EXERCISE.

The pupil will fill the blanks and form the plural of the nouns where needed:

I saw a man and a woman this morning.

J'ai vu et matin (m.)

This boy and that girl are brother and sister,
garçon et fille sont frère et sœur.

My friend John has lost his books,
ami Jean a perdu

Those pupils love their teacher,
élèves aiment maître. (m.)

My sisters will buy their gloves,
sœurs achèteront gants. (m.)

That bird has lost its feathers,
oiseau a perdu plume. (f.)

Thou shalt love thy father and (thy) mother,
Tu aimeras

Each of us has his troubles and his joys,
de nous a peines (f.) et joie. (f.)

Your ancestors fought for their country,
combattirent pour pays.

All is wet, even my coat and my shirt,
est mouillé habit chemise. (f.)

Several of our friends came on the same day,
vinrent jour. (m.)

Such was the state of (the) affairs then,
était état affaire alors.

None of us saw the cat break the glasses,
nous n'a vu casser verre.

2d. Adjectives with the terminations *el, eil, ien, an, on, as, ais, ès, os, ot, et*, double the consonant before taking the mute *e*. Ex: *tel, telle; pareil, pareille; ancien, ancienne*, etc. However, *complet, concret, discret, secret, inquiet, replet*, become feminine by placing an accent (grave) on the *e*, and adding a mute *e* without doubling the consonant: *complète, concrète, discrète*, etc.

3d. Adjectives ending with *f* and *x* form the feminine by substituting *ve* and *se* for those final consonants. Ex: *heureux, heureuse; neuf, neuve*.

But, *doux* (sweet,) *faux* (false,) *roux* (red-headed,) and *vieux* (old,) make in the feminine *douce, fausse, rousse*, and *vieille*.

4th. Adjectives in *érieur* take a mute *e*. Ex: *extérieur* (exterior,) *supérieur* (superior.) To which we shall add *majeur* (major,) *mineur* (minor,) and *meilleur* (better,) which also take an *e*.

5th. Adjectives in *eur*, which are derived from the participle of a verb, as *danseur* (dancer,) derived from *dansant* (dancing,) change that termination into *euse, danseuse*.

6th. Adjectives in *teur* change this final into *trice*. Ex: *conducteur* (conductor,) *conductrice*.

7th. *Aigu, ambigu, bégû, contigu, exigu*, take *e* with a dieresis: *aiguë, contiguë*.

QUESTIONS.—What is the general rule for the

formation of the feminine?—How do you make the feminine of adjectives ending with a mute *e*? What terminations double the final consonant and take *e*?—What is the feminine termination of adjectives in *f* and *x*?—What is the feminine final of adjectives in *érieur*? in *eur* derived from a participle? in *teur*? in *gu*?

LIST OF EXCEPTIONAL FORMATIONS.

Tiers, tierce—third.	Frais, fraîche—fresh.
Jumeau, jumelle—twin.	Public, publique—public
Beau, belle—fine.	Turc, turque—Turkish.
Nouveau, nouvelle—new.	Grec, grecque—Greek.
Fou, folle—crazy.	Long, longue—long.
Mou, molle—soft.	Béni, bénigne—mild.
Blanc, blanche—white.	Coi, coite—quiet.
Franc, franche—frank.	Sec, sèche—dry.
Favori, favorite—favorite.	Nud, nue—naked

Malin, maligne—malicious.

Devin, devineresse—wizard.

Pécheur, pécheresse—sinner.

Chasseur, chasseresse—hunter.

Enchanteur, enchanteresse—enchanter.

Ambassadeur, ambassadrice—ambassador.

Gouverneur, gouvernante—governor.

Serviteur, servante—servant.

EXERCISE.

Fill the blanks and form the feminine :

My dear friend, (f.) you are very amiable,
cher vous êtes très aimable.

My brother is an excellent boy. My excellent sister
est excellent

John is a pretty boy ; Clara also is very pretty,
Jean est Clara aussi

I have read the Testament and ancient history,
J'ai lu Testament et (2) histoire. f. (1)

Such is the case. Such is his manner (or way,)
cas. manière.

This peasant is discreet. That peasant woman is
paysan discret. [discreet.

He has had a secret interview with me,
Il a eu (2) entrevue (1) avec moi.

Happy son, happy mother.* A furious cow.
Heureux fils, mère. furieux vache.

Put on your new hat and your new dress,
Mettez votre neuf (2) chapeau (1) et robe. (1) f.

This woman is false, that one is red-headed,
celle là

The girl is superior to her brother,
 fille à frère.

Mr. Vestris was a great dancer. Fanny is a dancer
 était grand Fanny

My protector and my protectress,
 protecteur et

His house is contiguous to mine,
 Sa maison à la mienne.

My twin-brother; his twin-sister.
 (2) (1) (2) (1)

She had a white hat and a white cape,
 Elle avait (2) (1) (2) pélerine. (f.)

A graceful smile. A graceful young girl.
 gracieux sourire (m.) jeune

Formation of the Plural.

We have shown how adjectives must agree in gender; we must now show how they agree in number with the noun.

General rule.—The plural of adjectives, feminine as well as masculine, is formed by adding an *s*: *bons, bonnes; sots, sottes*.

1st Exception.—Adjectives ending with *s, x*, in the singular, remain unchanged in the plural: *homme heureux, hommes heureux*.

2d. Adjectives in *au* take an *x* in the plural: *beau*, *beaux*.

3d. Those in *al* mostly form the plural in *aux*: *brutal*, *brutaux*; *loyal*, *loyaux*.

It will be remarked that these exceptions apply only to masculine adjectives; for the feminines *brutale*, *loyale*, *fatale*, etc., come under the general rule, and take an *s* in the plural. It is the final *al*, not *ale*, which is changed into *aux*.

The following, although ending in *al*, simply take an *s* in the plural:

Amical—friendly,	Final—final,
Fatal—fatal,	Frugal—frugal,
Matinal—early riser,	Glacial—icy,
Naval—naval,	Nasal—nasal,
Théatral—theatrical,	Pascal—paschal,
	Natal—natal.

Some adjectives require a complement to complete their meaning, as *digne de*, worthy of; *enclin à*, inclined to, &c. The complement consists in a preposition and a word depending from it.

QUESTIONS.—How is the plural of adjectives generally formed?—How is the plural formed when the adjective ends with *s* or *x*?—How with adjectives in *au*? in *al*?—To which of the genders do these exceptions apply?—Why?—What adjectives in *al* form their plural by the addition of an *s*?—What do certain adjectives require?

EXERCISE.

Form the plural and correct gender where required :

The good scholars study their lessons,
écolier étudient leçon. (f.)

Three gray coats and two black vests,
gris (2) habit (1) deux noir (2) gilet. (1)

The old woman pursued the little boys,
vieille poursuivirent petit

The fine horseman; the fine horsemen,
beau cavalier

Loyal father, loyal mother, loyal sons.
(2) (1) (2) (1) (2) (1)

Do you hear those brutal men swearing?
Entendez-vous jurer?

I have seen several naval fights,
J'ai vu plusieurs combat-naval.

The early-rising lark commences her songs,
alouette (f.) commence chant.

That man is not worthy of you,
n'est pas digne vous.

The icy winds froze our limbs,
vent glacial gelaient membres.

The final sounds are short,
son final sont court.

He is disdainful. A disdainful woman.
Il est dédaigneux. Une (2) (1)

Are you content, my dear children?
Etes vous content, cher enfant?

The adjectives always agree with their nouns,
s'accordent toujours (1) avec nom.

A fine carriage, with two gray horses,
carosse (m.) avec (2) (1)

She is unworthy of your confidence,
Elle indigne confiance. (f.)

That girl was deaf and dumb,
était sourd muet.

Pronouns.

The French pronouns are divided into five classes, viz: *Pronoms personnels, démonstratifs, possessifs, relatifs, et indéfinis.*

PERSONAL PRONOUNS.

First person: *Je*, I; *me, moi*, me or to me;
nous, we, us, to us.

Second person: *Tu*, thou; *te, toi*, thee, to thee;
vous, you, ye, to you.

Third person : *Il, ils*, he, they ; *elle, elles*, she, they ; *lui*, him, her, to him, to her ; *eux*, them (m.) ; *le, la, les*, him, her, them ; *se, soi*, himself, herself, one's-self ; *en*, of or with him, her, them ; *y*, to, at, about, or in him, her, them.

RULES.—Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in gender and number.

Je, tu, il, elle, nous, vous, ils, elles, SUBJECT of the verb, always precede it. Ex : *Je vois, tu sais, elle dit* ; except when the interrogative form is used : *vois-tu ? sais-tu ? dit-elle ?* This form is also used when quoting another's words, as in English : "But, said he,"—"Mais, dit il."

Me, te, le, la, nous, vous, les, se, OBJECTIVE PRONOUNS, precede the verb. Ex : He cannot do it : *il ne peut le faire*. He wants to see me : *il veut me voir*. I shall tell you : *Je vous dirai*. We will take them : *nous les prendrons*. She will cut herself : *elle se coupera*.

Moi, toi, lui, elle, eux, elles, direct object, follow the verb : *c'est moi, c'est toi, ce sont elles*.

With the imperative, the objective always comes after the verb, and if there are two, the direct object precedes the indirect. Ex : Give me that book : *donnez-moi ce livre*. Give it to me : *donnez le moi*.

En and *y* apply specially to things, although

used when speaking of persons for *à elle*, *à lui*, *à eux*; but the latter must never be used in reference to things. Ex: I am thinking of him (relating to a person,) can be translated *J'y pense*, or, *Je pense à lui*; what do you think of her?—*qu'en pensez vous*, or, *que pensez vous d'elle*? but, if speaking of a thing or animal, the latter construction cannot be used, and we must render "I think of it," "do you want it?" by "*J'y pense*," "*en voulez-vous*."

The sense of *en* and *y*, pronouns, is different from that of *en*, preposition, which signifies *in*, and has always an object; and *y*, adverb, which means *there*.

Le, *la*, *les*, pronouns, always accompany a verb, and can be, therefore, easily distinguished from *le*, *la*, *les*, articles, which always precede a noun.

QUESTIONS.—How many classes of pronouns is there in French?—Recite the personal pronouns. What is the rule?—What pronouns are subjects and precede the verb?—Except when?—What objective pronouns precede the verb? which come after it?—How when the imperative is used?—What does *en* and *y* apply to?—What is the meaning of the preposition *en*? of the adverb *y*? What is the difference between the pronouns and the articles *le*, *la*, *les*?

EXERCISE.

I said thou art lost, if he hears what you say,
 Je dis es perdu si entend ce que dites.

We shall learn our lessons quicker than you,
 apprendrons leçon plus vite que

What are they doing? They are cutting some wood
 Que font-ils? coupent du bois.

I have seen them, They will kill me,
 Je ai vu tueront

He sees her, She despises him, It is for them,
 voit méprise C'est pour eux

Every one for himself, One owes to one's-self,
 Chacun pour soi. On doit à soi-même.

NOTE.—The pronouns *me, te, se, nous, vous*, are used after the subject pronouns in the conjugation of reflected verbs, called in French *verbes pronominaux*; they express the action of the verb as performed on the subject, or in other words, that the same person is subject and object. Ex: *Je me lève*, I rise (me;); *tu t'assieds*, thou sittest (thee;); *il se couche*, he lies (him) down; *nous nous battons*, we fight (us or ourselves;); *vous vous connaissez*, you know you (or yourself;); *ils or elles se présentent*, they present them (or themselves.) It will be seen from these examples that the objective

pronoun in some of the verbs can be rendered in English, and in others it cannot.

We fought and he whipped me; I would not cry,
battîmes et vainquit

He laid him down to die,
coucha pour mourir.

Man believes himself great,
L'homme croit grand.

You have my copy-book; give it to me, I pray you
avez cahier; donnez prie

Let us go to the theatre. I was thinking of it,
Allons J'y pensais

You have some fine wood, what will you do with it?
avez de qu'en ferez vous

What do you think of it? What can I do about it?
pensez Qu'y puis-je faire

She mocks him, We shall come back to it,
s'en moque reviendrons

Have you some money? how much (of it) have you?
de l'argent? combien

Let us pass on to another lesson,
Passons un autre

What is the subject of it? Still the pronouns,
Quel en est le sujet? Encore les pronoms.

DEMONSTRATIVE PRONOUNS.

These pronouns add an idea of demonstration or indication to the noun for which they stand.

Ce, (always joined to the verb *être*, or followed by the pronouns *que*, *qui*, *quoi*, *dont*,) it, that. It is the man: *c'est l'homme*. That which I see: *ce que je vois*.

Celui, *celle*; *ceux*, *celles*; this or that, the one, these or those, the ones for both genders. Generally followed by *de* or *que*.

Celui-ci, *celle-ci*, this one; *ceux-ci*, *celles-ci*, these.

Celui-là, *celle-là*, that one; *ceux-là*, *celles-là*, those.

Ceci, *cela*, literally "this here," "that there," conveys the idea of something being pointed at without being named. The syllables *ci* and *là* attached to a noun, convey the idea of comparison between two objects, one of which is nearer than the other to the speaker. The use of all these pronouns is exemplified in the following:

A qui ce livre?

To whom (belongs) this book?

C'est celui de mon frère,

It is that of my brother.

Ceux-ci appartiennent au maître et celui-là est à vous.
These belong to the teacher and that one is yours.

Ce livre-ci est il à vous?

Is this book yours?

Non, mais ce cahier-là m'appartient,
No, but that copy-book belongs to me.

Et ceci? Je ne sais à qui est cela,
And this? I do not know whose that is.

QUESTIONS.—What is a demonstrative pronoun?
Recite these pronouns.—Why is *ci* or *là* attached to a noun?—Give us the example embracing the different demonstrative pronouns.

EXERCISE.

NOTE.—In French, the apostrophical *s* is never used to form the possessive of a noun; “the man’s hat” must be rendered “*Le chapeau de l’homme*,” literally “the hat of the man.” Consequently, when the name of the object possessed is not mentioned, but the pronoun is used instead, or understood, the same construction will be observed. Ex: It is not the man’s hat, but my brother’s—Ce n’est pas le chapeau de l’homme, mais *celui* de mon frère. The pronoun *that*, evidently understood in the English text, must be expressed in French.

Will you have this hat or that one? This one.
Voulez-vous ou

The one which I seek is not here. What is that?
que je cherche n’est pas ici. Qu’est

These soldiers are good, those are bad,
soldats sont bon, sont mauvais.

These pens are better than those,
plume (f.) meilleures que

My lesson is shorter than my sister's,
est plus courte que

Those children are prettier than Julia's,
sont plus joli que

Those of your friend are still prettier.
sont encore plus joli.

I like better this one than that one,
J'aime mieux que

This is not agreeable, That is worthless,
n'est pas agréable. ne vaut rien.

Do you want some of this or of that?
Voulez-vous de ou de

Those who have recited their lessons may go,
qui ont récité peuvent s'en aller.

That is right, Those who have been lazy will stay
C'est bien. qui ont été paresseux resteront

POSSESSIVE PRONOUNS.

Le mien, la mienne, les miens, les miennes—*mine*.
Le tien, la tienne, les tiens, les tiennes—*thine*.

These are mine, those others are hers,
Celles-ci sont ces autres sont

My horse is better than yours and his,
cheval est meilleur

Will you tell me which is yours?
Voulez-vous dire lequel est

This school is better than theirs,
école est que

RELATIVE PRONOUNS.

These pronouns recall the idea of a noun or preceding pronoun with which they are closely connected or related. They are:

Qui—who, whoever, whom, that, which.

Que—whom, that, what?

Quoi—what! what?

Dont—whose, of whom, of which.

Lequel, laquelle, lesquels, lesquelles — which,
which one, that, whom.

The relative pronoun takes the gender, number and person of its antecedent, and must be placed as near as possible to that antecedent: *Moi qui suis estimé, toi qui es estimé. La paresse est un vice que les hommes surmontent difficilement.*

Qui, object of a preposition, relates only to per

sons or things personified. *Le marchand à qui je dois.* *Rocher à qui je me plains.*

Lequel, laquelle, are used instead of *qui* for things not personified: *Le cheval sur lequel je suis monté.* But *qui, que, dont*, are used instead of *lequel, laquelle*, to avoid ambiguity: *J'ai vu le mari de votre sœur, lequel viendra me voir.* In this sentence, *qui* would leave a doubt whether it is the husband or the sister who will come, whilst *lequel* makes the sense clear.

Qui is generally the subject of a verb, and may then relate to things or persons.

Que is always used as an object, and refers both to persons and things.

Qui est là?	L'homme qui parle,
Who is there?	The man who speaks.

Le livre dont je parle,	L'homme que je vois,
The book of which I speak.	The man whom I see.

Qui cherchez-vous?	Que voulez-vous?
Who are you looking for?	What do you want?

Qui que ce soit,
Whoever it may be.

QUESTIONS.—What is a relative pronoun?—
Recite the relative pronouns.—What is the rule concerning these pronouns and their antecedents?
What does *qui*, object of a preposition, relate to?

When are *lequel, laquelle*, used instead of *qui*?—
When *qui* is subject of a verb, what may it relate to?—What about *que*?

EXERCISE.

God, who hears me, knows the truth,
Dieu m'entend connaît vérité.

What do you think of that man?
pensez de

What! have you not studied your lesson?
n'avez-vous pas étudié

The book of which I speak is interesting,
Je parle intéressant.

Which of these soldiers killed the pig?
soldats a-t-il tué le cochon?

Which of you, young ladies, has taken my flowers?
mesdemoiselles pris fleurs?

Which will you take, the large or the small ones?
prendrez grand petit

What are you thinking about, my friend?
pensez-vous

The best friend that I have had is dead,
meilleur j'aie eu mort.

The scholar who spoke shall be punished,
 écolier a parlé sera puni.

The lawyer of whom we were speaking is sick,
 avocat nous parlions malade.

The child for whom I have done so much,
 tant (2) fait.

Are you the gentleman whom I saw?
 Etes monsieur j'ai vu?

Are you the person to whom I spoke?
 personne j'ai parlé?

INDEFINITE PRONOUNS.

The indefinite pronouns designate vaguely the persons or things that they recall to the mind. These pronouns are *on*, one, some one; *quiconque*, whoever, whosoever; *quelqu'un*, somebody; *chacun*, each; *autrui*, others; *l'un*, the one; *l'autre*, the other; *l'un l'autre*, *les uns les autres*, each other; *l'un et l'autre*, both; *personne*, nobody.

The indefinite adjectives *aucun*, *nul*, *certain*, *plusieurs*, *tel*, when not accompanying a noun, may be considered as indefinite pronouns.

QUESTIONS.—In what manner do indefinite pronouns recall their antecedents?—Recite the indefinite pronouns.—What adjectives may be considered as indefinite pronouns?

EXERCISE.

NOTE.—The pronoun *on*, although translated here “some one,” is still more vague in its meaning. It relates to some person, or persons, unknown or not specially designated. Thus, *On a pris mon livre*, can be rendered, Some one has taken my book; *On a dit cela*, Some one has said so (or that;); *Que dit on?* What is said? *Pourquoi court-on là bas?* Why are people running there (in that direction?) *On ferait bien d’abattre cette maison*, It would be well that this house should be pulled down. Some writers also render *on* by *they*, as *on dit*, they say; *que dit-on?* what do they say? but the antecedent of a personal pronoun ought to be clearly designated, and it is more correct to use one of the vague forms given above.

What has been done with my hat?
fait de mon chapeau?

One ought to reflect before speaking,
doit réfléchir avant de parler.

Whoever said that is a liar,
a dit menteur.

Somebody is knocking at the door,
frappe la porte.

Each of us had his task done,
de nous avait sa tâche faite.

We must respect the property of others,
Il faut respecter le bien

One says white, the other says black,
L' dit blanc, dit noir.

They are trying to deceive each other,
essaient de se tromper

Both are wrong to speak thus,
ont tort de parler ainsi.

Nobody believes what they say,
ne croit à ce qu'ils disent.

None has arrived, that I know,
n'est arrivé, je sache.

The Verbs.

There are five sorts of verbs in French: le verbe *actif*, le verbe *passif*, le verbe *neutre*, le verbe *pronominal*, and le verbe *unipersonnel*.

The active (transitive) verb expresses an act *performed* by the subject, and has a direct object: *J'aime mon père*, I love my father.

The passive verb expresses an act *suffered* by

the subject: *Mon père est aimé de moi*, My father is loved by me.

The neuter verb (intransitive,) although expressing action, has no direct object like the active verb: *Je travaille avec courage*, I labor with courage.

The pronominal (reflected) verb is conjugated with two pronouns of the same person, and may be said to express the action of the subject upon itself. In French the reflected form is very often used, and some verbs cannot be conjugated otherwise.

The unipersonal or impersonal verb can only be conjugated in the third person singular; the pronoun, in this instance, having no real antecedent. Such are *il pleut*, it rains; *il neige*, it snows. Sometimes other verbs (neuter, passive or reflected,) are used like impersonal verbs, and we say *il tombe de la neige*, it falls snow or snow is falling; *il se présente une difficulté*, a difficulty presents itself.

MOODS AND TENSES.

French verbs have five moods and eight tenses.

The *indicative* mood presents the affirmation in a positive manner: *J'aime, j'aimais, j'ai aimé*, I love, loved, have loved. It embraces the eight tenses.

The *conditional* mood affirms doubtfully with a condition: *Je viendrais si j'avais le temps*, I would come if I had time. This mood has two tenses.

The *imperative* has only one tense—it expresses command, exhortation or wish: *attendez, veuillez attendre*, wait, please to wait.

The *subjunctive* is always subordinate to another's action: *Je désire que vous veniez*, I wish that you may come; *Je désirais que vous vinssiez*, I wished that you might come.

The *infinitive* presents the idea vaguely, without designating person or number.

QUESTIONS.—How many kinds of verbs are there in French and what are they?—Define the active verb; the passive verb; the neuter verb; the pronominal; the unipersonal.—How many moods and tenses have the French verbs?—Define the indicative; the conditional; the imperative; the subjunctive; the infinitive.

The Four Conjugations and the Auxiliary Verbs.

The French verbs are divided into four conjugations, recognized by the termination of the infinitive:

1st conjugation ending in ER, as *aimer*, to love.

2d, ending in IR, as *finir*, to finish.

3d, ending in OIR, as *recevoir*, to receive.

4th, ending in RE, as *rendre*, to render.

The models having been studied, all other regular verbs can be conjugated accordingly. The irregular verbs must be studied apart, at least the tenses in which the irregularities exist.

All verbs are conjugated with the help of the auxiliaries AVOIR, to have, and ETRE, to be.

AVOIR helps to conjugate:

1st. All the active verbs,—*j'ai aimé, nous aurons lu.*

2d. The greater number of neuter verbs,—*tu as dormi.*

3d. A few impersonal verbs,—*il a fallu.*

ETRE conjugates:

1st. All the passive verbs,—*je suis estimé.*

2d. Most of the impersonal verbs,—*il est résulté.*

3d. All the pronominal verbs,—*Je me suis flatté.*

NOTE.—We shall now proceed to conjugate verbs. The explanations accompanying each tense of the indicative mood should be carefully studied, as they will guide the student in the use of the tenses of other verbs. Instead of seeking for the corresponding English tense, it is better to translate simply according to the sense. For example, we say, using the *subjonctif présent*, which corresponds with the English *potential*: *Je crains qu'il*

ne *finisse* pas son tableau. If we use the potential form, the translation will be: I fear that he *may* not finish his picture,—leaving it doubtful whether he may or not; but, if we say: I fear he *will* not finish his picture, the sense is positive as regards the action of the person spoken of, and subject or nominative of the verb finish.

AVOIR—TO HAVE.

INDICATIVE MOOD.

Le Présent expresses the fact affirmed as taking place at the time of speaking.

<i>J'ai</i> de bon vin,	<i>I have</i> some good wine.
<i>Tu as</i> un grand cheval,	<i>Thou hast</i> a large horse.
<i>Il (elle) a</i> mon chapeau,	<i>He (or she) has</i> my hat.
<i>Nous avons</i> du pain,	<i>We have</i> some bread.
<i>Vous avez</i> des amis,	<i>You have</i> some friends.
<i>Ils (elles) ont</i> des gâteaux,	<i>They have</i> some cakes.

L'Imparfait. The fact is affirmed simply as passed, or, as present relatively to a past period. *J'aimais mon père*, I loved my father; *Je dormais quand vous vîntes*, I was sleeping when you came. It has the latter sense in neuter verbs.

<i>J'avais</i> de l'argent,	<i>I had</i> some money.
<i>Tu avais</i> des fruits,	<i>Thou hadst</i> some fruit.
<i>Il (elle) avait</i> mon canif.	<i>He (or she) had</i> my penknife
<i>Nous avions</i> une maison,	<i>We had</i> a house.
<i>Vous aviez</i> un oncle,	<i>You had</i> an uncle.
<i>Ils (elles) avaient</i> une tante,	<i>They had</i> an aunt.

Le Passé défini: Relates to a period of time completely passed, as a year, a month, a day.

<i>J'eus</i> des fleurs en Avril,	<i>I had</i> flowers in April.
<i>Tu eus</i> des ananas hier,	<i>Thou hadst</i> pine-apples.
<i>Il (elle) eût</i> des fraises,	<i>He (or she) had</i> strawberries.
<i>Nous eûmes</i> du vent en Mars,	<i>We had</i> wind in March.
<i>Vous eûtes</i> des petits pois,	<i>You had</i> green peas.
<i>Ils (elles) eurent</i> un paté,	<i>They had</i> a pie.

Le Passé indéfini. This tense expresses an act accomplished in a time entirely or partially elapsed, as yesterday or to-day.

<i>J'ai eu</i> de l'argent,	<i>I have had</i> money.
<i>Tu as eu</i> de l'honneur,	<i>Thou hast had</i> honor.

Le Passé Antérieur always expresses an act accomplished *previous to another*, in the past: *Quand il eut fini, il se coucha*; when he had finished, he went to bed. This sense cannot be so apparent in **AVOIR**, conjugated as an active verb.

<i>J'eus eu</i> un frere,	<i>I had had</i> a brother.
<i>Tu eus eu</i> une sœur,	<i>Thou hadst had</i> a sister.
<i>Il (elle) eut eu</i> un matelas,	<i>He or she had had</i> a mattress.
<i>Nous eûmes eu</i> des verres,	<i>We had had</i> glasses.
<i>Vous eûtes eu</i> le sel,	<i>You had had</i> the salt.
<i>Ils eurent eu</i> la selle,	<i>They had had</i> the saddle.

Le Plus-que-parfait expresses a fact, not only in the past at the time of speaking, but in the past

relatively to another past action, as, I had finished when you entered; *J'avais fini quand vous entrâtes.*

J'avais eu mon

Tu avais eu ton

Il avait eu son

Nous avions eu notre

Vous aviez eu votre

Ils avaient eu leur congé quand la guerre finit.

I, thou, he, we, you, they had

had my, thy, his, our,

your, their discharge,

when the war ended.

Le Futur expresses that the action is to take place at a period not yet reached.

J'aurai

Tu auras

Il (elle) aura

Nous aurons

Vous aurez

Ils (elles) auront

de l'argent demain.

I shall or will

Thou shalt or wilt

He shall or will

We shall or will

You shall or will

They shall or will

have money to-morrow.

Le Futur Antérieur affirms an act to be accomplished before a given future time. **Avoir** can better express this with another verb.

J'aurai eu

Tu auras eu

Il (elle) aura eu

Nous aurons eu

Vous aurez eu

Ils (elles) auraient eu

ce livre pour rien.

I shall or will have had

Thou wilt have had

He or she will have had

We shall have had

You shall have had

They shall have had

that book for nothing.

Conditionnel présent. What would *be* if a certain condition was complied with.

<i>J'aurais</i> une pomme,	I would have an apple.
<i>Tu aurais</i> le prix,	Thou wouldst have the prize
<i>Il aurait</i> mon livre,	He would have my book.
<i>Nous aurions</i> des peches,	We would have some peaches
<i>Vous auriez</i> des souliers,	You would have some shoes.
<i>Ils auraient</i> du beurre,	They would have some butter

Conditionnel passé. What would *have been*, if certain conditions had been fulfilled.

<i>J'aurais eu,</i>	I would have had.
<i>Tu aurais eu,</i>	Thou shouldst have had.
<i>Il (elle) aurait eu,</i>	He would have had.
<i>Nous aurions eu,</i>	We should have had.
<i>Vous auriez eu,</i>	You would have had.
<i>Ils auraient eu,</i>	They should have had.

The same is expressed by *j'eusse eu, tu eusses eu, il eut eu, nous eussions eu, vous eussiez eu, ils eussent eu.*

Impératif—command or invitation.

<i>Aie</i> la bonté,	Have the goodness.
<i>Ayons</i> de la patience,	Let us have patience.
<i>Ayez</i> du courage,	Have courage.

Subjonctif. This mood, which has four tenses, is the most difficult to translate. In nine cases out of ten, the student fails to make a sentence having common sense, by trying to render the subjunctive by the English *potential*, as given in the

models of conjugation. Let us simply bear in mind that the action expressed by the verb in this mood is subordinate to a necessity, a will, a desire, an interrogation or a doubt expressed by another verb, and use any tense of the English verb that will express the idea clearly.

P R E S E N T O U F U T U R .

Il faut *que j'aie* mon livre ce soir,
I *must have* my book this evening.

Je veux *que tu aies* de jolis habits,
I want you *to have* some pretty clothes.

Croyez-vous *qu'il ait* des oranges?
Do you believe that *he has* any oranges?

Il ne croit pas *que nous ayons* du courage,
He does not believe that *we have* courage.

Je désire *que vous ayez* du bonheur,
I desire that you *may have* happiness.

Je doute *qu'elles aient* du talent,
I doubt whether *they have* talent.

I M P A R F A I T .

Il faudrait *que j'eusse* mon parapluie,
It would be necessary that *I should have* my umbrella.

Il serait bon *que tu eusses* quelque argent,
It would be well that *thou shouldst have* some money.

Je ne croyais pas *qu'il eût* des amis,
I did not believe *that he had* friends.

Il voudrait que nous eussions de l'or,
He would want us *to have* gold.

Il serait juste *que vous eussiez* des gateaux,
It would be just that *you should have* cakes.

Pensiez vous *qu'ils eussent* vos places ?
Did you think that *they had* your places ?

P A S S E .

Quoique *j'aie eu* des amis,
Although *I have had* friends.

Est-il possible *que tu aies eu* tant d'argent ?
Is it possible that thou *hast had* so much money ?

Croyez-vous qu'il ait eu sa place ?
Do you think that he *has had* his place ?

Faut-il *que nous ayons eu* du malheur !
Must it be that we *have had* such bad luck !

Il doute que vous *ayez eu* ce courage,
He doubts that you could *have had* that courage.

Je ne crois pas qu'ils *aient eu* le temps,
I do not think that they *have had* time.

PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT.

Supposez que *j'eusse eu* votre verre,
Suppose that *I should have had* your glass.

J'attendais que tu *eusses eu* ta part,
I was waiting until thou *shouldst have* thy share.

Nous ne pensions pas qu'il *eut eu* besoin de nous,
We did not think he *would have* wanted us.

Il craignait que nous eussions eu des tracas,
He feared that we might have had trouble.

Nous voudrions *que vous eussiez eu* plus de patience,
We would wish that you *had had* more patience.

Il faudrait qu'ils *eussent eu* moins de vanité,
They ought to have had less vanity.

INFINITIF PRESENT.

Avoir de la patience dans l'adversité,
To have patience in adversity.

P A S S E .

Avoir eu des amis, et n'en plus avoir !
To have had friends, and to have them no more !

PARTICIPES—PRESENT ET PASSE.

Ayant égard, *eu* égard, *ayant eu* égard a sa qualité,
Having regard, regard *had*, *having had* regard for his
[quality.]

REMARKS.—**AVOIR** is the only verb that can be conjugated without the help of any other verb, the compound tenses being formed by adding the past participle **EU** to the simple tenses. A little attention to this formation of tenses will save much labor to the pupil. When **AVOIR** is used as an auxiliary to form the compound tenses of other verbs, it is only its *simple* tenses which are used, with the past participle of the verb conjugated.
Example:

SIMPLE TENSE.

COMPOUND TENSE.

INDICATIF PRESENT: J'ai.	—PASSE INDEFINI: J'ai eu, j'ai été, j'ai fini, j'ai aimé, etc.
IMPARFAIT: J'avais.	—PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT: J'avais eu, j'avais fini, j'avais aimé, etc.
PASSE DEFINI: J'eus.	—PASSE ANTERIEUR: J'eus eu, j'eus fini, j'eus aimé, etc.
FUTUR: J'aurai.	—FUTUR ANTERIEUR: J'aurai eu, j'aurai fini, j'aurai aimé, etc.
CONDITIONNEL PR.: J'aurais.	—COND. PASSE: J'aurais eu, j'aurais fini, j'aurais aimé, etc.
SUBJONCTIF PRES.: Que j'aie.	—SUBJ. PASSE: Que j'aie eu, que j'aie fini, que j'aie aimé, etc.
IMPARFAIT DU SUBJ.: Que j'eusse.	—PLUS-QUE-P.: Que j'eusse eu, que j'eusse aimé, etc.

It is, therefore, not necessary to give here more than the simple tenses of the verb *ÊTRE*, since its compound tenses can be made by adding its participle, *été*, to the simple tenses of *avoir*.

Instead of conjugating *être* with sentences as we have done for *avoir*, we will use the past participles of verbs conjugated passively with *être* as an auxiliary. We say passively, because those same verbs conjugated in their active sense would have their own simple tenses, and would form the compound ones with the verb *avoir* as an auxiliary.

ETRE, verbe substantif ou auxiliaire.

INDICATIF PRESENT.

Je suis aimé, ou aimée—I am loved.

Tu es béni, ou bénie—Thou art blessed.

Il ou elle est chéri, ou chérie—He or she is cherished.

Nous sommes battus, ou battues—We are beaten.

Vous êtes adorés, ou adorées—You are adored.

Ils ou elles sont pris, ou prises—They are taken.

IMPARFAIT.

J'étais volé, ou volée—I was robbed.

Tu étais vaincu, ou vaincue—Thou wast vanquished.

Il ou elle était trompé, ou trompée—He or she was de-
[ceived.

Nous étions habitués, ou habituées—We were accustomed

Vous étiez invités, ou invitées—You were invited.

Ils ou elles étaient mis, ou mises—They were put.

PASSE DEFINI.

Je fus endurci ou endurcie—I was hardened.

Tu fus blâmé ou blâmée—Thou wast blamed.

Il ou elle fut réduit ou réduite—He or she was reduced.

Nous fûmes désolés ou désolées—We were disconsolate.

Vous fûtes consolés ou consolées—You were comforted.

Ils ou elles furent vus ou vues—They were seen.

FUTUR.

Je serai porté ou portée—I shall be carried.

Tu seras préparé ou préparée—Thou wilt be prepared.

Il ou elle sera reçu ou reçue—He or she will be received

Nous serons décidés ou décidées—We shall be decided.

Vous serez obligés ou obligées—You will be obliged.

Ils ou elles seront tués ou tuées—They will be killed.

CONDITIONNEL.

Je serais excité ou excitée—I should be excited.
 Tu serais animé ou animée—Thou wouldst be animated.
 Il ou elle serait guéri ou guérie—He or she would be
 [cured.
 Nous serions écoutés ou écoutées—We would be listened to
 Vous seriez entendus ou entendues—You would be heard
 Ils ou elles seraient nés ou nées—They would be born.

IMPERATIF.

Sois aimé ou aimée—Be (thou) loved.
 Soyons armés ou armées—Let us be armed.
 Soyez confondus, confondues—Be confounded.

SUBJONCTIF PRESENT.

Que je sois compris ou comprise—That I may be under-
 [stood.
 Que tu sois ruiné ou ruinée—That thou shouldst be ruined
 Qu'il ou qu'elle soit cru ou crue—That he or she may
 [be believed.
 Que nous soyons empêchés, ées—That we shall be pre-
 Que vous soyez vendus, es—That you are sold. [vented.
 Qu'ils ou qu'elles soient connus, es—That they can be
 [known.

IMPARFAIT.

Que je fusse abandonné, ée—That I should be abandoned
 Que tu fusses dénoncé, ée—That thou shouldst be de-
 [nounced.
 Qu'il, qu'elle fut brûlé, ée—That he, she should be
 [burned.
 Que nous fussions découverts, tes—That we should be
 [discovered.

INFINITIF PRESENT.

Etre aimé, aimée, aimés, aimées—To be loved.

PASSE.

Avoir été aimé, ée, és, ées—To have been loved.

PARTICIPE PRESENT.

Etant aimé, ée, és, ées—Being loved.

PASSE.

Ayant été aimé, ée, és, ées—Having been loved.

It will be remarked that the past participle of *avoir* is invariable, whilst that of *être* agrees in number and gender with the person. A woman will write *J'ai vu, je suis vue, nous avons aimé, nous sommes aimées*.

In conjugating active verbs passively, all the tenses of *être* are used ; *J'ai été blessé, que j'eusse été tué*, etc. But in the conjugation of neuter verbs, the simple tenses only, of *être*, are used to form the compound tenses, those verbs having their own simple tenses. And we say, *je pars, I depart; Je suis parti, j'étais parti*, etc. *Je sors, I go out; je suis sorti, je serais sorti*, etc.

Models of Verbs of the 1st and 2d Conjugations.

AIMER—FINIR.

NOTE.—All regular active verbs ending in **ER** and **IR** will be conjugated according to these models, with **AVOIR** as auxiliary to form the compound tenses.

INDICATIF PRESENT.

J'aime, I love.	Je finis, I finish.
Tu aimes, Thou lovest.	Tu finis, Thou finishest.
Il, elle, aime, He, she loves.	Il, elle finit, He finishes.
Nous aimons, We love.	Nous finissons, We finish.
Vous aimez, You love.	Vous finissez, You finish.
Ils, elles aiment, They love.	Ils, elles finissent—They [finish.

IMPARFAIT.

J'aimais, I loved.	Je finissais, I finished.
Tu aimais, Thou lovedst.	Tu finissais, Thou finishedst
Il, elle aimait, He, she loved.	Il finissait, He finished.
Nous aimions, We loved.	Nous finissions, We finished
Vous aimiez, You loved.	Vous finissiez, You finished
Ils, elles aimaient, They	Ils finissaient, They finished
[loved.	

PASSE DEFINI.

J'aimai, I did love.	Je finis, I did finish.
Tu aimas, Thou didst love.	Tu finis, Thou didst finish.
Il aima, He did love	Il finit, He did finish.
Nous aimames, We did love.	Nous finimes, We did finish
Vous aimates, You did love.	Vous finites, You did finish.
Ils aimèrent, They did love.	Ils finirent, They did finish.

FUTUR.

J'aimerai, I shall	Je finirai, I shall
Tu aimeras, Thou shalt	Tu finiras, Thou shalt
Il aimera, He shall	Il finira, He shall
Nous aimerons, We shall	Nous finirons, We shall
Vous aimerez, You shall	Vous finirez, You shall
Ils aimeront, They shall	Ils finiront, They shall

love.

finish.

CONDITIONNEL PRESENT.

J'aimerais, I would	Je finirais, I would
Tu aimerais, Thou wouldst	Tu finirais, Thou wouldst
Il aimerait, He would	Il finirait, He would
Nous aimerions, We would	Nous finirions, We would
Vous aimeriez, You would	Vous finiriez, You would
Ils aimeraient, They would	Ils finiraient, They would

love.

finish.

IMPERATIF.

Aime, Love.	Finis, Finish.
Aimons, Let us love.	Finissons, Let us finish.
Aimez, Love.	Finissez, Finish.

SUBJONCTIF PRESENT.

Que j'aime,	That I love	or shall love.
Que tu aimes,	That thou lovest	
Qu'il aime,	That he loves	
Que nous aimions,	That we love	
Que vous aimiez,	That you love	
Qu'ils aiment,	That they love	or shall finish.
Que je finisse,	That I finish	
Que to finisse,	That thou finishest	
Qu'il finisse,	That he finish	
Que nous finissions,	That we finish	
Que vous finissiez,	That you finish	
Qu'ils finissent,	That they finish	

IMPARFAIT DU SUBJ.

Que j'aimasse,	That I should	love.
Que tu aimasses,	That thou wouldst	
Qu'il aimât,	That he should	
Que nous aimassions,	That we would	
Que vous aimassiez,	That you should	
Qu'ils aimassent,	That they would	finish.
Que je finisse,	That I should	
Que tu finisses,	Thou wouldst	
Qu'il finît,	He should	
Que n. finissions,	We would	
Que v. finissiez,	You would	
Qu'ils finissent,	They should	

INFINITIF PRESENT.

Aimer, to love. Finir, to finish.

PASSE.

Avoir aimé, to have loved. Avoir fini, to have finished.

PARTICIPE PRESENT.

Aimant, loving. Finissant, finishing.

PASSE.

Aimé, aimée, ayant aimé, Loved, having loved.
 Fini, finie, ayant fini, Finished, having finished.

REMARK.—The neuter verbs in *er* and *ir* form their simple tenses according to these models, but some form their compound tenses with *avoir* and some with *être*.

Models of the 3d and 4th Conjugations.

RECEVOIR.—RENDRE.

The remarks given with the other models apply to these for the verbs ending in OIR and RE.

INDICATIF PRESENT.

Je reçois, I receive.	Je rends, I render.
Tu reçois, Thou receivest.	Tu rends, Thou renderest.
Il reçoit, He receives.	Il rend, He renders.
Ns recevons, We receive.	Ns rendons, We render.
Vs recevez, You receive.	Vs rendez, You render.
Ils reçoivent, They receive.	Ils rendent, They render.

IMPARFAIT.

Je recevais, I received.	Je rendais, I rendered.
Tu recevais, Thou receivedst.	Tu rendais, Thou renderest.
Il recevait, He received.	Il rendait, He rendered.
Ns recevions, We received.	Ns rendions, We rendered.
Vs receviez, You received.	Vs rendiez, You rendered.
Ils recevaient, They received.	Ils rendaient, They rendered.

PASSE DEFINI.

Je reçus, I did	Je rendis, I did
Tu reçus, Thou didst	Tu rendis, Thou didst
Il reçût, He did	Il rendit, He did
Ns reçûmes, We did	Ns rendîmes, We did
Vs reçûtes, You did	Vs rendîtes, You did
Ils reçurent, They did	Ils rendirent, They did

receive.

render.

FUTUR.

Je recevrai, I shall	Je rendrai, I shall	
Tu recevras, Thou shalt	Tu rendras, Thou shalt	
Il recevra, He shall	Il rendra, He shall	
Ns recevrons, We shall	Ns rendrons, We shall	
Vs recevrez, You shall	Vs rendrez, You shall	
Ils recevront, They shall	Ils rendront, They shall	

receive.

render.

CONDITIONNEL PRESENT.

Je recevrais,	I would	
Tu recevrais,	Thou wouldst	
Il recevrait,	He should	
Ns recevriions,	We would	
Vs recevriez,	You should	
Ils recevraient,	They would	
Je rendrais,	I would	
Tu rendrais,	Thou wouldst	
Il rendrait,	He would	
Ns rendrions,	We would	
Vs rendriez,	You would	
Ils rendraient,	They would	

receive.

render.

IMPERATIF.

Reçois, Receive.	Rends, Render.
Recevons, Let us receive.	Rendons, Let us render.
Recevez, Receive.	Rendez, Render.

SUBJONCTIF PRESENT.

Que je reçoive,	That I receive	
Que tu reçoives,	That thou receivest	
Qu'il reçoive,	That he receives	
Que ns recevions,	That we receive	
Que vs receviez,	That you receive	
Qu'ils reçoivent,	That they receive	

or shall receive.

Que je rende,	That I render	or shall render.
Que tu rendes,	That thou renderest	
Qu'il rende,	That he renders	
Que ns rendions,	That we render	
Que vs rendiez,	That you render	
Qu'ils rendent,	That they render	

IMPARFAIT DU SUBJ.

Que je reçusse,	That I should	receive.
Que tu reçusses,	That thou shouldst	
Qu'il reçût,	That he should	
Que ns reçussions,	That we should	
Que vs reçussiez,	That you should	
Qu'ils reçussent,	That they should	
Que je rendisse,	That I should	render.
Que tu rendisses,	That thou shouldst	
Qu'il rendît,	That he should	
Que ns rendissions,	That we should	
Que vs rendissiez,	That you should	
Qu'ils rendissent,	That they should	

INFINITIF PRÉSENT.

Recevoir, To receive. Rendre, To render.

PASSE.

Avoir reçu, To have received.
Avoir rendu, To have rendered.

PARTICIPE PRÉSENT.

Recevant, Receiving. Rendant, Rendering.

PASSE.

Reçu, reçue, ayant reçu, Received, having received.
Rendu, rendue, ayant rendu, Rendered, having rendered.

Verbes Pronominaux---Reflected Verbs.

All active verbs expressing an act of which a person can be the object, may be conjugated in the reflected form. We can say *je me coupe*, *je m'éveille*, *je m'aime*: I cut myself, I awake myself, I love myself; but we cannot say *je me bois*, I drink myself; *je me finis*, I finish myself. Consequently, the verb cannot be reflected when the action only affects things.

Reflected verbs are conjugated in all their tenses with a double pronoun of the same person, placed before the verb: first, the subject or nominative; next, the objective; thus: *je me*, *tu te*, *il se*, *nous nous*, *vous vous*, *ils se*. *ETRE* is the auxiliary, and the conjugation is made in the way prescribed, according to the termination of the infinitive.

Je m'aime,	tu te rendais,	vous vous battrez,
Tu t'es flatté,	qu'il se soit blessé,	qu'elle se fût tuée.

The limits of an elementary work such as this will not allow tables of irregular verbs. These will be found in most of the large text books, to which our little volume is a mere introduction.—We have said enough about the verbs to enable the student to conjugate all regular verbs, whether active, passive or neuter. Let him construe as many sentences as possible, introducing new words in all their tenses. This will do more to familiarize

him with the genius of the language than if he were to combine thousands of words with a limited number of verbs, for the verb is the soul of speech.

L'Adverbe.

Adverbs are indeclinable, and are generally placed after the verb which they modify; except those of interrogation, which precede the verb.

ADVERBS MOST COMMONLY USED.

Ailleurs,	alentour,	alors,	aujourd'hui,	auparavant,
Elsewhere.	around.	then.	to-day.	before.
auprès,	aussi,	aussitôt,	autant,	autrefois,
near.	also.	presently.	as much.	formerly.
autrement,				otherwise.
beaucoup,	bien,	bientôt,	combien,	comment,
much,	many.	well.	soon.	how much.
			how much.	how.
d'avantage,	dedans,	dehors,	déjà,	demain,
more.	within.	without.	already.	to-morrow.
désormais,	dessous,	dessus,	dorénavant,	encore,
henceforth,	under it.	upon it.	for the future.	again.
(1)				
enfin,	ensemble,	ensuite,	fort,	guère,
finally.	together.	then,	afterwards.	very.
				but little.
hier,	ici,	jadis,	jamais,	là loin,
yesterday.	here.	of old.	never.	there.
				far.
				now.
même,	mieux,	moins,	ne, (2)	où,
even,	better.	less.	not.	where.
				everywhere.
pas,	point,	peu,	plus,	plutôt,
				presque,
				quelque,
not.	little.	more.	rather.	almost.
				however.

souvent,	tant,	tantôt,	tard,	toujours,
often.	so many.	by and by.	late.	always, ever.
tout,	très, (3)	trop,	volontiers,	y,
wholly, as.	very.	too much.	willingly.	there.

NOTE 1. *Encore* is used also in the sense of *still, yet, more*. Ex: *Il est encore là*, He is still there. *Il a encore une lieue à faire*, He has yet one league to go. *Avez-vous encore du blé?* Have you some more wheat?

2. *Ne, pas, point*. These three negatives are used singly, or *ne* is combined with one of the others. *Ne* is the weakest and *ne point* the strongest.

The verb *empêcher* (to prevent,) and the conjunctive expressions *à moins que* (unless,) *de peur que, de crainte que* (for fear that,) require *ne* after them. *J'empêcherai qu'il ne vienne*, I will prevent his coming; *de crainte qu'il n'oublie*, for fear that he may forget; *à moins qu'il ne promette*, unless he promises.

Ne is also required after *autre, autrement, plus, mieux, moins, meilleur*, and the verbs *craindre, avoir peur, trembler, appréhender*, followed by a subjunctive. *Il parle autrement qu'il n'agit, plus qu'il n'agit, mieux qu'il n'agit, moins qu'il n'agit, Il est meilleur qu'on ne croit, Je tremble qu'il ne vienne*.

Ne is used as in the above sentences, when no

negative accompanies the preceding proposition; otherwise the first example would read: *Il ne parle pas autrement qu'il agît.*

After the verbs *craindre*, *avoir peur*, *trembler*, *appréhender*, we use *ne pas*, instead of *ne*, when we desire the accomplishment of the action expressed by the second verb. For example, the sentence quoted above: *Je tremble qu'il ne vienne*, means I tremble lest he should come, whereas *Je tremble qu'il ne vienne pas*, would mean, I tremble lest he should not come. When *rien*, nothing—*personne*, nobody—*ni*, neither, nor—come after the verb, we use *ne* instead of *ne pas*.

3. *Très*, *bien*. Both of these adverbs signify *very*, but *très* can modify only an adjective or an adverb. *Bien* is used before nouns as well as adjectives and adverbs.

Besides these adverbs, there are many more, formed from adjectives by adding *ment* to them. They generally correspond to the English adverbs in *ly*. Ex: *joliment*, *poliment*: prettily, politely. When the adjective ends with a consonant, the feminine termination is given before *ment*, as *gracieux*, *gracieusement*, graceful, gracefully; *sot*, *sottement*, foolish, foolishly. Certain words are combined and used as adverbs. They are called *locution adverbiale*. Such are *à jamais*, for ever; *à la fin*, at last; *à présent*, at present, etc.

LA PREPOSITION.

The preposition is invariable, and serves to express the relations existing between different words. The most frequently used are :

A, at, to ; après, after ; attendu, considering ; avant, before ; avec, with ; chez (precedes moi, toi, etc.,) at or to one's house ; contre, against ; dans, in ; de, of ; depuis, since ; derriere, behind ; dès, from ; devant, before (in front of ;) durant, during ; en, in ; entre, between ; envers, towards ; hormis, except ; hors, out, past ; malgré, in spite of ; moyennant, provided ; notwithstanding ; outre (que,) beside (that ;) par, by ; parmi, among ; pour, for ; pendant, while ; sans, without ; sauf, save ; selon, according to ; sous, under ; suivant, agreeably to ; sur, on ; touchant, touching ; vers, about ; vis-à-vis, opposite.

The *locution prépositive* is an assemblage of words doing the office of a preposition ; such are *en faveur de*, in favor of ; *quant à*, as for, etc.

LA CONJUNCTION.

The conjunction connects the different parts of a sentence and is invariable. The most used are :

Ainsi, thus, so ; car, for ; cependant, yet ; comme, as ; ni, neither, nor ; donc, then ; et, and ; lorsque, when ; mais, but ; néanmoins, nevertheless ; or, now ; pourtant, however ; quand, when ; quoique, albeit ; si, if ; sinon, else.

Au reste, as for the rest ; *par conséquent*, consequently ; *à moins que*, unless, etc., are conjunctive expressions.

L'INTERJECTION.

This invariable word expresses sudden emotions.

Ha! expresses surprise. *Ah! aïe! hélas!* pain or sorrow. *Oh! ah!* admiration. *Fi!* displeasure. *Paix! chut!* impose silence. *Hola!* serves to call; and *Hé bien!* to interrogate.

I D I O M S .

Every language has its idioms—that is, certain forms peculiar to itself, by which to express certain ideas. These forms, therefore, cannot be translated literally; they must be learned without regard to the sense of the separate words. Thus it is with the formal salutations :

Comment vous portez vous? How do you do?

Which means, literally, How do you carry yourself? But we say, literally, with more familiarity :

Comment êtes vous? How are you?

Comment cela va-t-il? How goes it?

Comment va? How goes?

Speaking of the weather, temperature, &c., we say in French, *Il fait chaud, froid* : It makes heat, cold, instead of (*il est*) it is warm, cold ; using the noun instead of the adjective.

So it is with the sensations of the mind and body. We say *j'ai froid, j'ai chaud, j'ai peur, j'ai faim, j'ai honte*, using a noun with the verb

avoir, and meaning I have (a feeling or sensation of) cold, heat, fear, hunger, shame; whilst the English use the verb to be (*être*) with an adjective, expressing the *condition* of the nominative, as being hot, cold, afraid, hungry, &c.

But *froid* and *chaud* being adjectives as well as nouns, we use them with the verb *être* when speaking of inanimate objects or parts of a body—that is, objects having no volition or individual power of feeling. Thus, speaking of a man whom we see shivering or perspiring, we will translate

That man is cold (or warm,) by
Cet homme a froid (chaud;)

But speaking of a dead man, we will say,

Cet homme est froid, est chaud,

Because a dead body's state is one of being, not of feeling. For the same reason we say *sa tête, sa main, sont froides*, because the head, the hand, can have no individual feeling, being parts of a whole.

Le marbre est froid, Marble is cold.

We will not dwell on the French idioms, they are too numerous. We have concluded, however, to add a chapter on the formation of tenses, and a table of the principal irregular verbs, which will be of important help to the student.

Our object, in writing this little book, has been to give the student some rules on pronunciation, and to make him familiar with the simplest rules of grammar; let him exercise in those, particularly the verbs, until he is familiar with them.—Then, translate in the following manner: take a French text and translate a sentence, word for word, using a dictionary; then reduce this literal translation to correct English, by studying the general sense, and transcribe it into a separate copy-book. After several pages have been thus written, say the work of one or two weeks, put away the French book, and translate this English into French, with the help of the dictionary, but resisting the temptation to consult the French text. Then compare the version with the original. More will be learned in this manner, in six months, than by memorizing sentences during a year.

Of the Formation of Tenses.

The tenses of French verbs are divided into two classes: the *Temps primitifs* (primitive tenses,) which are five in number, and the *temps dérivés*, which are formed or *derived* from the primitive tenses. The primitive tenses are:

LE PRÉSENT DE L'INFINITIF, which forms two tenses, to wit:

1st. *Le futur absolu* (first future,) by changing the final *r*, *re*, or *oir*, in *rai*, *ras*, *ra*, *rons*, *rez*, *ront*.
 Ex: aimer; j'aimerai; finir, tu finiras; recevoir, nous recevrons; rendre, vous rendrez, ils rendront.

2d. *Le conditionnel présent*, by changing these terminations in *rais*, *rais*, *rait*, *rions*, *riez*, *raient*.

The PARTICIPE PRESENT, which forms three tenses:

1st. The three persons plural of the present of the Indicative, by changing *ant* in *ons*, *ez*, *ent*.—
 Ex: aimant, finissant, rendant, form nous aimons, vous finissez, ils rendent. Except the verbs of the third conjugation, which, in the third person plural of the Indicative, change *evant* in *oivent*. Ex: recevant, nous recevons, vous recevez, ils reçoivent.

2d. The *Imparfait de l'Indicatif*, by changing *ant* in *ais*, *ais*, *ait*, *ions*, *iez*, *aient*. Ex: J'aimais, nous finissions, vous receviez, ils rendaient.

3d. The *Présent du Subjonctif*, by changing *ant* in *e*, *es*, *e*, *ions*, *iez*, *ent*; except the verbs of the third conjugation, which change *ant* in *oive*, *oives*, *oive*, *evions*, *eviez*, *oivent*. Ex: que j'aperçoive, que nous apercevions, que nous receviez, qu'ils reçoivent.

The PARTICIPE PASSE, which forms all the compound tenses with the verb *Avoir* or the verb *être*:
 J'ai aimé, tu avais fini, il est estimé, nous serons punis.

The **INDICATIF PRESENT** (the three persons singular only are primitive,) which forms the Imperative by suppressing the personal pronouns *tu, nous, vous*, and the final *s* which characterizes the second person singular.

The **PASSE DEFINI**, which forms the *Imparfait du Subjonctif*, by changing the terminations *ai, as, a, âmes, âtes, èrent*, of the first conjugation, into *asse, asses, ât, assions, assiez, assent*; and the terminations *is, ît, îmes, ites, irent*, and *us, ût, ûmes, ûtes* and *ûrent* of the other conjugations in *isse, usse, it, ut, issions, ussions, issiez, ussiez, issent, ussent*. Ex: que j'aimasse, que nous chantassions, que vous finissiez, qu'ils reçussent.

All regular verbs can be conjugated according to these rules, the four models having been studied.

The irregular verbs are those whose tense terminations are not in entire conformity with those of the models. They are divided into two classes:

1st. Those whose primitive tenses are irregular, but still serve to form the other tenses according to the rules given above. They are, consequently, as easily conjugated as the regular verbs, since all we have to learn is the five primitive tenses, from which we can form the others. Should the verb lack one of the primitive tenses, the derived tenses formed from this primitive will naturally be wanting also. The verb is then called *defective*.

2d. The second class of irregular verbs consists of those whose *derived* tenses are not formed from the primitives according to the rule. It is necessary, then, to study these irregularities carefully.

The following table gives the primitive tenses of the irregular verbs of the first class; the student will conjugate them according to the rules.

IRREGULAR VERBS OF THE FIRST CLASS.

SECOND CONJUGATION.

INFINITIF PRESENT.	PARTICIPE PRESENT.	PARTICIPE PASSE.	INDICATIF PRESENT.	PASSE DEFIN.
Bouillir,	Bouillant,	Bouilli,	Je bous,	Je bouillis.
Couvrir,	Couvrant,	Couvert,	Je couvre,	Je couvris.
Dormir,	Dormant,	Dormi,	Je dors,	Je dormis.
Faillir,	Faillant,	Failli,	Je faux,	Je faillis.
Fuir,	Fuyant,	Fui,	Je fuis,	Je fus.
Mentir,	Mentant,	Menti,	Je mens,	Je mentis.
Offrir,	Offrant,	Offert,	J'offre,	J'offris.
Ouvrir,	Ouvrant,	Ouvert,	J'ouvre,	J'ouvris.
Partir,	Partant,	Parti,	Je pars,	Je partis.
Sentir,	Sentant,	Senti,	Je sens,	Je sentis.
Servir,	Servant,	Servi,	Je sers,	Je servis.
Sortir,	Sortant,	Sorti,	Je sors,	Je sortis.
Souffrir,	Souffrant,	Souffert,	Je souffre,	Je souffris.
Tressaillir,	Tressaillant,	Tressailli,	Je tressaille,	Je tressaillis.
Vêtir,	Vêtant,	Vêtu,	Je vêts,	Je vêtis.

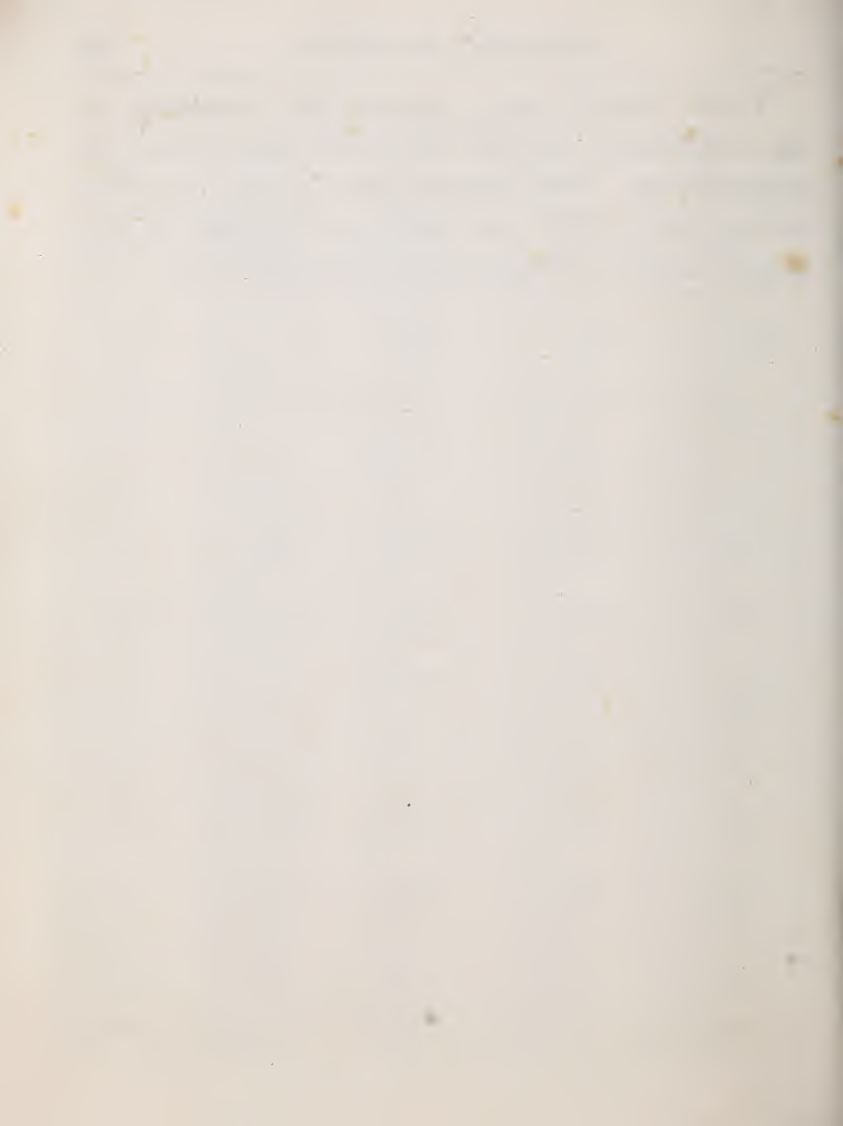
THIRD CONJUGATION.

Pleuvoir,	Pleuvant,	Plu,	Il pleut,	Il plut.
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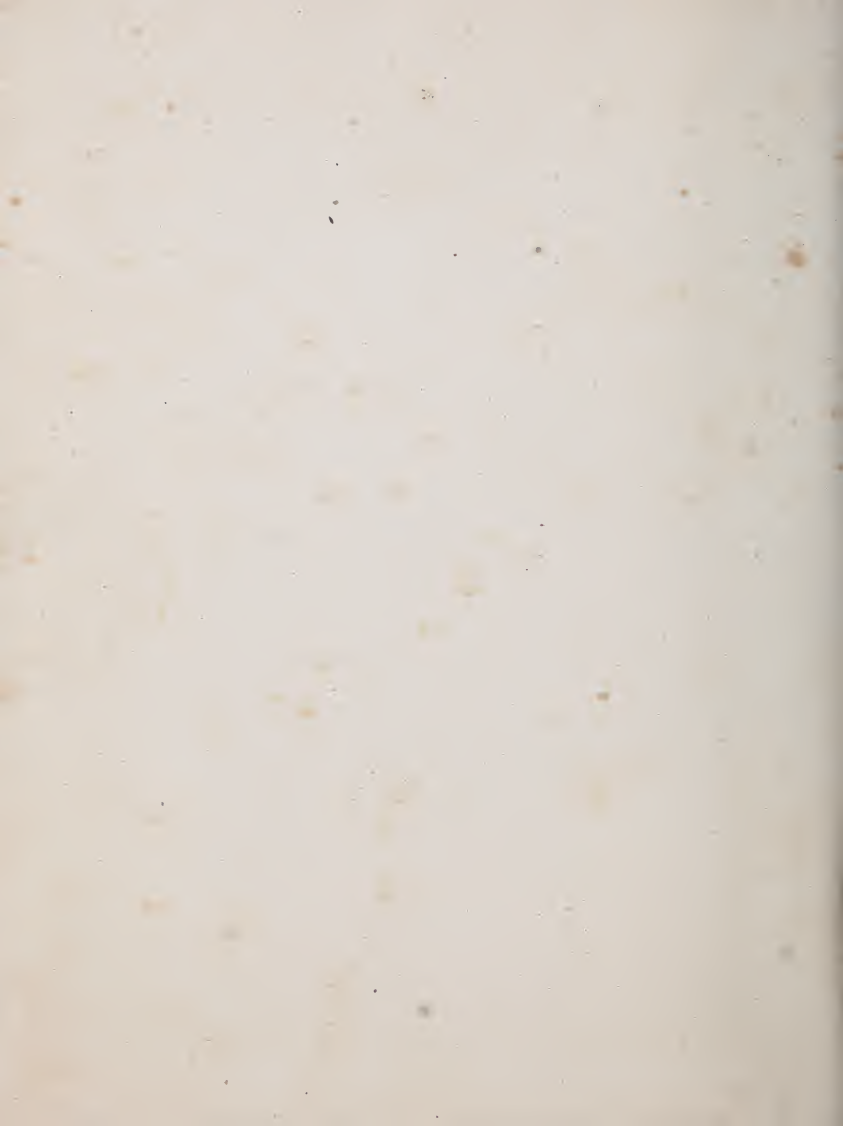
FOURTH CONJUGATION.

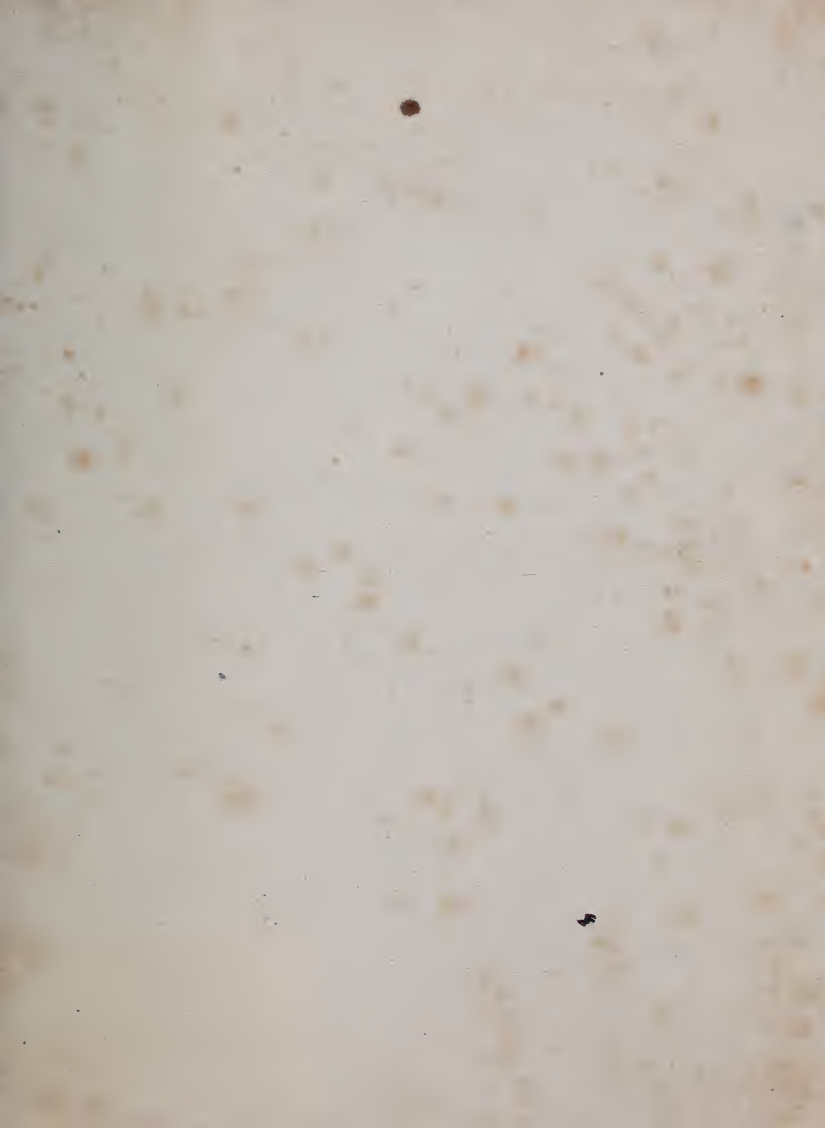
INFINITIF PRESFNT.	PARTICIPE PRESENT.	PARTICIPE PASSE.	INDICATIF PRESENT.	PASSE DEFINI.
Absoudre,	Absolvant,	Absous,	J'absous,	NONE.
Battre,	Battant,	Battu,	Je bats,	Je battis.
Braire,	NONE,	NONE.	Il brait,	NONE.
Clore,	NONE,	Clos,	Je clos,	NONE.
Conclure,	Concluant,	Conclu,	Je conclus,	Je conclus.
Conduire,	Conduisant,	Conduit,	Je conduis,	Je conduisis.
Confire,	Confisant,	Confit,	Je confis,	Je confis.
Connaître,	Connaissant,	Connu,	Je connais,	Je connus.
Coudre,	Cousant,	Cousu,	Je couds,	Je cousis.
Craindre,	Craignant,	Craint,	Je Crains,	Je craignis.
Croire,	Croyant,	Cru,	Je crois,	Je crus.
Croître,	Croissant,	Crû,	Je crois,	Je crus.
Ecrire,	Ecrivant,	Ecrit,	J'écris,	J'écrivis.
Exclure,	Excluant,	Exclu,	J'exclus,	J'exclus.
Joindre,	Joignant,	Joint,	Je joins,	Je joignis.
Lire,	Lisant,	Lu,	Je lis,	Je lus.
Maudire,	Maudissant,	Maudit,	Je maudis,	Je maudis.
Médire,	Médissant,	Médit,	Je médis,	Je médis.
Mettre,	Mettant,	Mis,	Je mets,	Je mis.
Moudre,	Moulant,	Moulu,	Je mouds,	Je moulus.
Naître,	Naissant,	Né,	Je nais,	Je naquis.
Nuire,	Nuisant,	Nui,	Je nuis,	Je nuisis.
Paraître,	Paraissant,	Paru,	Je parais,	Je parus.
Plaire,	Plaisant,	Plu,	Je plais,	Je plus.
Repaître,	Repaissant,	Repu,	Je repais,	Je repus.
Résoudre,	Résolvant,	Résolu,	Je résous,	Je résolus.
Rire,	Riant,	Ri,	Je ris,	Je ris.
Rompre,	Rompant,	Rompu,	Je romps,	Je rompis.
Suffire,	Suffisant,	Suffi,	Je suffis,	Je suffis.
Suivre,	Suivant,	Suivi,	Je suis,	Je suivis.
Taire,	Taisant,	Tu,	Je tais,	Je tus.
Teindre,	Teignant,	Teint,	Je teins,	Je teignis.
Traire,	Trayant,	Trait,	Je trais,	NONE.
Vaincre,	Vainquant,	Vaincu,	Je vaincs,	Je vainquis.
Vivre,	Vivant,	Vécu,	Je vis,	Je vécus.

Verbs formed from some of the foregoing, by the addition of a prefix will be conjugated like the original verb. For instance, *dire*, to say, or *redire*, to say over; *plaire*, to please, or *déplaire*, to displease, come evidently under the same rule.









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